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Iran raps peace offer

Saddam call is propaganda campaign, says Tehran

NICOSIA, Jan 6, (AP): Iran dismissed as a "campaign of public deception" an Iraqi proposal for reviving stalled peace talks between the two countries, the official Islamic Republic News Agency reported today.

The agency said the Iranian criticism of the offer made by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein was contained in a memorandum issued yesterday in New York by the Iranian mission to the United Nations.

The memorandum, however, did not outrightly reject the Iraqi initiative.

Peace talks launched after the truce have been deadlocked, mainly over priorities.

In a nation-wide address, marking Army Day, Saddam proposed that a direct dialogue between the Iranian and Iraqi leaderships be held alternatively in Baghdad and Tehran under UN supervision.

He also suggested exchanging all ailing and disabled POWs, and those who have been detained since the early days of the conflict which broke out in September 1980.

His proposal called for opening offices for the two countries' national airlines in the rival capitals and the exchange of visits by the Iraqi and Iranian peoples to secure an atmosphere of peace that would help push efforts for a settlement of the conflict.

"Saddam's campaign of propaganda ... is designed to prevent the Security Council from adopting measures against the party that has created obstacles for implementation of resolution 598," the Iranian mission's memorandum said.

The agency quoted the mission as saying Tehran viewed the three-point plan announced yesterday as "a new campaign of public deception to undermine (UN Security Council) resolution 598."

"In fact, Saddam reiterated Iraq's previous proposals that were extraneous to the resolution, only giving them a new wrapping," it said.

Resolution 598, adopted in July 1987, calls for a ceasefire, withdrawal of troops to pre-war borders, the repatriation of prisoners of war and settlement of the conflict through negotiations.

Palestine state a must

Bangladesh belongs to neither blocs

Atique Samad
News Editor, Arab Times

BANGLADESH does not belong to either the western or eastern camps and strictly adheres to the principles of non-alignment, Bangladesh's Foreign Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud has said in an interview.

He also said that the dramatic developments in the Eastern bloc countries vindicate the policy of non-alignment and the movement.

Mahmud said: "The fundamental rationale of non-alignment was to follow an independent path between the power blocs at a time when the cold war was the dominant feature of international relations."

"Today, the fundamental thrust of non-alignment has evolved from the pursuit of decolonisation and preservation of political independence to that of securing stability and independence."

In a wide-ranging interview with the Arab Times, he said the relations of Bangladesh with Kuwait have grown over the years. He described the present ties as "excellent."

Mahmud arrives in Kuwait today on a three-day official visit.

Mahmud emphasised the need for an immediate convening of an international conference on the Middle East and PLO participation.

"The crux of the issue is the restoration of the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people and the establishment of a state of their own," he added.

Commenting on the relations between Bangladesh and India, Mahmud said he hoped the new Indian government will take initiatives to improve ties.

Full text on Page 10

Iraq flexes missile might

BAGHDAD, Jan 6, (Reuters): Iraq paraded locally-made tanks and missiles today in a massive show of military strength lauding President Saddam Hussein.

The parade marking the 69th anniversary of the founding of the Iraqi army took four hours to pass Hussein's reviewing stand and included more than 200 tanks and other armoured vehicles and at least 5,000 troops.

There was no sign of the three-stage rocket which Iraq reported it launched into space early in December, or of the 2,000-km surface-to-surface missile it said it had developed.

A western military attaché suggested Iraq might want to keep the new arms under wraps.

Weapons on display included missiles of the type Iraq used to bombard Iranian cities, including Tehran, during the eight-year Gulf war which ended in a ceasefire in August 1988.

Baghdad was filled with Iraqi flags fluttering under a cloudy winter sky as hundreds of thousands of people lined the capital's main thoroughfares to watch the first army parade in more than a decade.

People carried banners lauding the army as the "maker of victory over Iran."

Iraq said the missiles were of its own make, although foreign military experts said they were modified Soviet Scud-Bs.

Also on display was an Iraqi version of the Soviet T-72 tank dubbed the lion of Babylon, as well as Soviet- and French-made armoured vehicles, missiles and artillery.

The parade, Iraq's first since the outbreak of the war, included a fly-past in which an early warning plane took part. The plane is an Iraqi modification of a Soviet-built Ilyushin IL-76.

A jet drew "Saddam Hussein" in smoke and the Iraqi leader was also honoured by locally-made artillery pieces bearing his name.

The parade passed under Baghdad's victory arch, a huge monument representing Hussein's hands carrying crossed swords rising above the head-wear of dead Iranian soldiers.

In a speech yesterday, Saddam warned Israel and indirectly the United States against attacking Iraq's newly-developed long-range missiles.

In 1981, Israeli jets destroyed an unfinished Iraqi reactor which the Jewish state said could be used to produce nuclear arms.

For the first time in memory pro-government Kurdish forces took part in the parade, which was also watched by Jordan's King Hussein.



Cold claims 360

The coldest winter in a half century has claimed 50 more lives in Bangladesh, pushing the toll to 360 for Bangladesh and neighbouring India, United News of Bangladesh reported yesterday.

Temperatures have risen slightly from freezing levels recorded earlier in the week, but reports of deaths are still arriving from northern Bangladesh.

At least 180 people died in India, while another 200 died in Bangladesh since the cold descended on Bangladesh about a month ago.

Overnight lows in northern Bangladesh had dropped to 1.7 Celsius (35 Fahrenheit), the lowest level in 50 years, but by the end of the week had risen to 3 Celsius (37 Fahrenheit).

Many of the cold victims were homeless people. United News of Bangladesh said school children had been asked to stay home for the next two weeks in the chilled northern districts of Panchagarh, Dinajpur, Rangpur and Pabna. Most of the recent deaths occurred in those areas.

The Relief Ministry said it was distributing blankets and clothing in the north but said its supplies were inadequate. The cold wave in India also has been easing slightly, and reports of deaths from exposure were tapering off by the end of the week.

Picture shows a family takes shelter in Dhaka from a cold wave. (Reuters wirephoto)

Looters slash fingers

SANGI, Pakistan, Jan 6, (Reuters): Looters stripped passengers of jewellery and money as they lay injured amid the wreckage of Pakistan's worst-ever train crash, victims said today.

"My swollen finger was cut to remove my heavy gold ring," said Mohammad Ramzan at the hospital at Sukkur town, near the crash site of Sangi. His hand was bandaged.

A thief also removed about 3,500 rupees (\$165) from his pocket as he lay unconscious after the passenger express he was travelling in ploughed into a halted freight train in the southern province of Sind on Wednesday night.

"My gold jewellery was removed from both my ears after I fainted," an injured woman, Fatima Khatoon, said.

Another man, Noor Mohammad, said he was robbed of a wrist watch and about 1,000 rupees (\$46).

Trains began running today through Sangi in both directions on the double track after rescue workers pulled the last remains of passengers from the mangled wreckage.

Rotten pieces of human flesh were still lying under huge twisted railway wagons when reporters from Karachi visited the site today.

Welders cut away steel and cranes lifted away the wreckage and dumped it by the colonial-era country railway station.

"About 40 trapped passengers were taken out after cutting steel," Brigadier Saeed Akhtar, in charge of the army rescue operation, said. Many had lost limbs.



Pakistani soldiers search carriages for bodies after the worst train disaster in Sukkur. (Reuters wirephoto)

Judge to probe crash

Pakistan train disaster toll 300

KARACHI, Jan 6, (Reuters): Opposition parties demanded the resignation of Pakistan's railway minister today after the country's worst train crash killed about 300 people.

Zafar Ali Leghari said he accepted responsibility for Wednesday night's crash in the southern province of Sind, but gave no indication that he would resign.

The combined opposition parties (COP) coalition also demanded that a Supreme Court judge investigate the crash, in which a packed passenger express ploughed into a halted freight train, and punish those found responsible.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto said yesterday a judge of the provincial High Court would investigate the crash near the northern Sind town of Sukkur, in which officials said 430 people were also injured.

"The federal railways minister should accept responsibility of this tragic accident and resign," a COP resolution said after the group's two-day meeting, which also threatened to launch a protest campaign against the prime minister.

Leghari told reporters at the crash site of Sangi: "I am before my people for any punishment."

Quoted by the official APP news agency, he said he had been emotionally wrought after the crash, adding: "I will never have inner peace all my life."

Benazir said sabotage could not be ruled out but no definite statement could be made before the inquiry's outcome.

COP leader Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi told a news conference in Karachi, the Sind capital, the opposition protest campaign would attack what he called the Benazir government's policies "against democracy and victimisation of political opponents."

The death toll remained in dispute among doctors, relief workers and government officials.

Hospital sources put the toll at 307 yesterday, while Leghari, quoted by the state television, said today that a

287 people were killed.

Muhamma Sattar Edhi, head of a medical charity compiling the lists of the dead, said his workers counted 283 bodies.

The army, which supervised the rescue operation, said 255 passengers were killed on the spot or died later in hospitals.

Police have registered manslaughter charges against three railwaymen on duty at Sangi station after the express engine driver said he had passed a signal clearing him to proceed.

Police have arrested a switchman in connection with the disaster, officials said today.

Railway spokesmen said an improperly-set switch apparently sent an express train loaded with sleeping passengers crashing into the freight train early Thursday.

Police said they were questioning one of the station's switchmen followed his arrest late Friday.

"The railway inspector has begun an inquiry by recording the statements of railway employees."

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"The railway inspector has begun an inquiry by recording the statements of railway employees."

200 Liberians killed Rebels on the run

NAIROBI, Jan 6, (AP): A Liberian army commander said armed dissidents entered northeastern Liberia nearly two weeks ago and killed more than 200 civilians, a radio station reported today.

Brig. Gen. Edward Smith, army commander in the embattled Nimba county, revealed the civilian casualties yesterday when he briefed President Samuel K. Doe on the situation, according to Radio Elwa.

Radio Elwa is an independent evangelical station based in Monrovia and broadcasting throughout West Africa.

The radio quoted Smith as saying that in one border town, seven people had been shot and killed as they were praying in a mosque. He apparently did not give details of the other civilian deaths, but said only one Liberian soldier was killed in the fighting.

Smith said a few of the dissidents remained on the run, "sporadically attacking civilians in the forest areas of Nimba" but that Liberian forces had driven the rebels from Butuo, a border town.

He said those forces were bringing the situation under control. The broadcast, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corp., did not say whether Smith and Doe discussed the number of Liberians who reportedly have fled into neighbouring Ivory Coast to escape the hostilities.

Diplomats have said it is difficult to determine the number of Liberians fleeing the hostilities, but some reports have put the figure as high as 8,000 to 10,000.

House vote unanimous Free Jordanian politicians, Syria told

AMMAN, Jan 6, (Agencies): Jordan's Parliament voted today to ask Syrian President Hafez Al Assad to free all Jordanian political prisoners held in Damascus jails.

The 80-member lower house unanimously approved a suggestion by Islamist deputy Mohammed Alawneh that a cable be sent to Assad seeking the "immediate release of all Jordanian prisoners."

Security sources said up to 200 Jordanian activists have been jailed in Syria over the past two decades, including five known to have been imprisoned without trial after the 1970 Ba'athist coup in Syria.

Repeated efforts by Jordanian political activists and officials to win the release of the five have failed. They are Hakem Al Fayed, Zafar Jaam'ani, Mjali Nasraween, Hassan Khatib and Yousef Al Burji.

The newly elected chamber of deputies also condemned recent Israeli shooting along the Jordanian border. Israel claims the shooting was in response to gunfire from Jordan.

Deputies also agreed by acclamation to denounce Israeli gunfire along the border.

Deputy Bassam Hadadine, a liberal-leftist, said the shooting was "aimed at discrediting Jordan's democratic moves."

US men targets, warns NPA

ANGELES, Philippines, Jan 6, (AP): Communist rebels today claimed responsibility for killing a mayor in central Luzon and warned US servicemen and some other mayors would be their next targets.

"This is just the beginning," said Joema Garcia, reputed chieftain in the area of the communist New People's Army. "More liquidations will follow."

Garcia said Mayor Javier Hizon of the town of Mexico, a few kilometres (miles) southeast of Angeles, was slain for spearheading the creation of anti-communist militias in his area.

Hizon and a bodyguard were shot yesterday outside his home. Angeles in Pampanga province is home of the US-run Clark Air Base, north of Manila.

Garcia said five other Pampanga mayors and US servicemen suspected of "collaborating" with the Philippine military would be killed.

He added the killings were in retaliation for setbacks suffered by communist insurgents in the area last year.

In Maguindanao province, government troops yesterday killed six Muslim rebels who faked a surrender before ambushing two vehicles sent to pick them up, the military reported.

Brig. Gen. Orlando Soriano, regional army commander, said the clash took place in the town of Barira, 770 kilometres (480 miles) southeast of Manila. (See Page 2)

Labour seeks sweeping constitutional change for Britain

LONDON, Jan 6, (Reuters): The opposition Labour Party pledged itself today to major constitutional reforms for Britain, including abolishing the House of Lords and curbing government powers, if it wins the next general election.

Billed as the country's most sweeping constitutional reforms this century, they were unveiled by deputy leader Roy Hattersley and call for an effective charter of rights which would "make Britain a free society for the whole population."

Labour would abolish the unelected House of Lords in Parliament, give limited

home rule to Scotland and Wales and bring the much criticised intelligence services under Parliament's control.

The party has built a 10 per cent lead over Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's Conservative government in opinion polls after espousing market capitalism and dumping unpopular left-wing policies.

But political sources believe Labour requires a major policy issue of its own to consolidate its advantage and give it a realistic chance of overturning Thatcher's 100-seat majority at the election due by mid-1992.

Party leaders believe that promises for constitutional reform could be a significant vote winner after 10 years of a Thatcher government which Labour says is increasingly authoritarian.

Hattersley outlined the proposals in a speech prepared for delivery at the socialist Fabian Society conference in Oxford.

"Too many of the freedoms about which Britain has boasted have historically been available to only a small proportion of our population," he said. "Labour intends to make them a reality for all our citizens."

The House of Lords, which dates back to the 13th century and includes members of the hereditary nobility, would be replaced by an elected chamber, he said.

The government would lose the right to take action without parliament's approval and legislators would approve all major government appointments in a manner similar to the US Congress.

Parliamentary control of Britain's intelligence services, which are currently responsible to the prime minister, is a long-standing Labour demand.

DAY BY DAY

THE public wants nothing from the official departments, except a fair deal which guarantees their rights and do not want to hear "no" when the law says "yes."

Even where the law says no, legislators have made allowances for a margin of flexibility for interpretation in people's favour. Unfortunately, more often than not, this flexibility is misused by some "sick" employees who disturb people and contribute to an increase of public complaints against government staff.

People desire that ministers keep their eyes and ears open to see and hear the "high-handedness" of their employees, prior to appropriating blame on people.

Customers are always right.

Zahed Matar

Weather

FAIR weather with light to moderate southeasterly wind.

State of sea: Slight to moderate

High water: 9.00 am, 7.00 pm

Low water: 2.00 am, 1.00 pm

Sunrise: 6.43 am

Sunset: 5.05 pm

Maximum temperatures recorded:

Kuwait: 22°C 72°F

Ahmad: 30°C 86°F

Saika: 21°C 70°F

Minimum temperatures recorded:

Kuwait: 7°C 45°F

Ahmad: 11°C 52°F

Saika: 11°C 52°F

Maximum temperatures expected:

Kuwait: 22°C 72°F

Ahmad: 29°C 84°F

Saika: 21°C 70°F

Maximum humidity recorded:

Kuwait: 25 per cent

Ahmad: 80 per cent

Saika: 72 per cent

3-hour gunbattle Six Muslim rebels killed

OZAMIS, Philippines, Jan. 6. (Reuters) Soldiers killed six Muslim separatists rebels in a three-hour gunbattle in the southern Philippines, two days after peace emissaries, the military said today.

The gunbattle occurred yesterday in Barira town, Maguindanao province, some 900 km (560 miles) south of Manila. Brigade Commander Brigadier-General Orlando Soriano said.

The government troops were sent to the area to hunt Muslim separatists when another rebel faction opposed to the surrender shot them at a checkpoint.

The emissaries were driving to Buldon town in Maguindanao to accept the surrender of 80 Muslim separatists when another rebel faction opposed to the surrender shot them at a checkpoint.

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Manila plotters began recruiting in October

MANILA, Jan. 6, (UPI) Documents submitted to state prosecutors yesterday indicated that leaders of last month's coup attempt against President Corazon Aquino began recruiting mutineers as early as October.

The documents were submitted to Assistant Prosecutor Dennis Villanueva at the Justice Department at

the start of an inquest into the actions of retired generals Felix Brawner and Jaime Echeverria, who have been charged with leading the rebellion.

Villa-Ignacio will decide if the case has enough merit to go before a civilian criminal court.

One document signed by Capt. Jose

Cruz said he attended an initial meeting called by the coup leaders in the middle of October at the first Scout Ranger Regiment office at the army headquarters at suburban Fort Bonifacio.

Cruz said during the meeting, 14 officers and an unspecified number of enlisted men were told that "something will happen" but no details were given.

He said he attended two or three meetings at Fort Bonifacio, the last one on Nov. 30 at 9 pm when rebel Maj. Abraham Purugganan announced that a coup attempt would be launched in three hours.

Cruz said he was given the task of delivering supplies to the rebels but

decided later in the day "what I was doing was wrong, so I decided to leave."

Critics have charged many members of the 159,000-strong armed forces of the Philippines were "fence-sitters," which is why the country's intelligence network failed and the coup caught officials by surprise.

Mutineers launched the uprising after midnight Nov. 30, taking over three garrisons and a television station in the uprising that lasted a week and left 119 people dead.

The coup attempt was the sixth and strongest challenge against Aquino, who swept to power in a civilian-backed military revolt in 1986.

Changes in East Europe do not affect Filipino communists

Marxists struggle for power

MANILA, Jan. 6, (UPI) The demise of hardline regimes in Eastern Europe has almost no impact on the Filipino dissidents waging Southeast Asia's only thriving communist insurgency.

Even as the regime of Nicolae Ceausescu was being dismantled in Romania, Filipino communists announced they were pursuing their Marxist ideals with greater vigor.

The sixth and bloodiest coup attempt against President Corazon Aquino before Christmas and the US effort to save her present new challenges for the outlawed Communist Party of the Philippines, a CPP statement said.

"The future of the Communist movement here is largely dependent on conditions in the country," said Francisco Nemenzo, a chancellor of the state-run University of the Philippines.

"You don't expect them to give up the armed struggle if the military is hunting them down."

The communist insurgency that had been active in Malaysia and southern Thailand since the end of World War II finally ended late in 1989, leaving the guerrillas in the Philippines the region's last real Marxist revolutionaries still struggling for power.

Widespread poverty, social inequality and lack of a government presence in the countryside are feeding the rebellion in the Philippines, a predominantly Catholic nation of 60 million.

The CPP was formed by a handful of peasants and intellectuals at the Aquino family's sugar hacienda in Talar province, north of Manila, on Dec. 26, 1968, the birthday of China's Mao Tse-Tung.

The early recruits were members of the Huk, the people's army formed to fight the Chinese imperial army during World War II, which turned on the Manila government over agrarian problems.

The Huk rebellion was traditionally centered in the central Luzon plain just north of Manila and nowhere in the area was the disparity between rich and poor more pronounced than at the Aquino hacienda.

A land-to-the-tiller programme and a "mailed fist" policy against the Huk in the late 1950s decimated the rebels, reducing them to armed bands protecting bars and brothels in

Cory's cabinet line-up

THE Philippine embassy in Kuwait in a press release has given the complete list of members of new cabinet of President Corazon C. Aquino. It is as follows:

Catalino Macaraig — Executive Secretary and Presidential Executive Co-ordinator for Political and Security Affairs.

Raul S. Manglapus — Secretary of Foreign Affairs.

Fidel Ramos — Secretary of National Defence.

Franklin Drilon — Secretary of Justice (new).

Alfredo Bengson — Secretary of Health.

Fulgencio Factoran — Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources.

Florencio Abad — Secretary of Agrarian Reform (new).

Isidro Carino — Secretary of Education (new).

Senen Bacani — Secretary of Agriculture (new).

Jesus Estanislao — Secretary of Finance (new).

Luis Santos — Secretary of Local Government.

Guillermo Carague — Secretary of Budget.

Fiorello Estaur — Secretary of Public Works and Highways.

Tomas Gomez III — Press Secretary (new).

Adolf Azanza — Presidential spokesman and presidential legal adviser.

Mita Pardo de Tavera — Secretary of Social Welfare.

Celestino Follosco — Secretary of Science and Technology.

Jose Concepcion, Jr. — Secretary of Trade and Industry.

Oscar Orbes — Secretary of Transportation and Communication (new).

Peter Garrucho — Secretary of Tourism.

Dionisio Dela Serna — Acting Secretary of Labour (new).

Cayetano Paderanga — Acting director-general of NEDA (National Economic Development Authority) (new).

Jose L. Cuisia, Jr. — Central Bank Governor (new).

Vicente Jayme — Presidential Executive Co-ordinator for Economic and Financial Affairs, with cabinet rank (new).

Jose "Ping" de Jesus — Presidential Executive Co-ordinator for Resource and Public Welfare Affairs, with cabinet rank.

Major Gen. Mariano Adakem — Presidential assistant, office of the Presidential Consultant of Military Affairs, and at the same time Officer-in-Charge of the Nica (National Intelligence Coordinating Authority) (new).

Twelve of the total 26 members of the cabinet are new appointees.

the Liberty City of Angeles, adjacent to the US Clark Air Base.

Jose Maria Sison, a political science professor at the University of the Philippines, revitalized the Huk movement and supplanted it with the Communist Party of the Philippines. On March 29, 1969, Sison formed the New People's Army, the military wing of the CPP.

The first NPA commander, Bernabe Buscayno, was a former farmhand on the Aquino plantation.

The communist movement grew under the regime of the late President Ferdinand Marcos, who was overthrown after 20 years of rule in the revolution that installed Aquino in February 1986.

The rebel strength reached 25,000, fed by repression during the martial law years in the 1970s. Marcos, according to rebel propaganda at the time, was the "NPA's No. 1 recruiter."

The capture of Sison and nearly all the top communist leaders in the mid-1970s failed to defuse the insurgency.

Sison and a number of ranking

guerrilla leaders were freed when Aquino took power. Sison, 50, is now living in exile in the Netherlands and has reassumed leadership of the Communist Party military sources said.

The "total war" policy against the NPA launched by Aquino after peace talks collapsed in February 1987 has set back the rebels, whose strength now is estimated at 19,000.

The recent discovery of "killing fields" where military "deep penetration agents" and alleged informers were summarily executed attracted no disarray in the insurgent movement, according to the military.

In the last two years, the NPA has attacked not only Philippine lawmen and civic leaders but also US nationals they said were involved in the counter-insurgency campaign.

Six US nationals have been killed in the past two years, including Vietnam war hero and former prisoner of war Col. James "Nick" Rowe.

Part of the communist rhetoric is directed at the presence of Clark and the nearby Subic Bay naval complex, Washington's

oldest and largest overseas military bases. Regarded as vital in projecting US military might in the western Pacific and the Indian Ocean, the bases are manned by 40,000 US servicemen, civilian employees and dependents.

"We feel we are never completely independent if the bases stay, because we remain to be in the clutches of the Americans," said Nelia Sancho, a former beauty queen.

President Bush's agreement to Aquino's request for help and his sending of F-4 Phantom jets over the capital on Dec. 1, the first day of the week-long coup attempt, has given the left ammunition against Aquino. Many Filipinos believed that, without US help, Aquino would have been overthrown in the uprising, which left 119 people dead.

"The (Aquino) regime offers no other alternative to the people but deepening US intervention and control in our national affairs, intensifying poverty and deprivation and increasing abdication of authority in favour of the fascist armed forces," said a Communist Party statement.



Utopian thought

Two street children play with balloons, tied to a poster stand in a Manila seaside park, calling for a stop to the use of guns. The campaign for a gunless society was initiated by private individuals in the Philippine capital. (Reuters wirephoto)

Kashmir troops kill two Muslims

JAMMU, India, Jan. 6, (AP) Paramilitary troops fired on Muslim separatists violating a curfew in Jammu-Kashmir state, killing at least two people, police said today.

The two men, both Muslims, were slain yesterday in Srinagar, summer capital of the state bordering the Pakistani frontier, a senior police officer in Jammu said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Srinagar is one of 14 Kashmiri towns under 24-hour curfews because of the continuing violence by Muslims advocating independence from predominantly Hindu India, or union with overwhelmingly Muslim Pakistan.

The latest town to be placed under curfew was Badgam, just outside Srinagar. A curfew was imposed yesterday on Badgam after Muslim demonstrators stoned a police patrol, the Jammu police officer said.

Residents are under orders not to leave their homes during the curfews, which authorities began imposing Thursday in an effort to prevent celebrations of "Kashmir Day" yesterday.

Kashmir Day marks the anniversary of a Jan. 5, 1949, resolution passed by the United Nations that said residents of Kashmir should determine their own future.

All government offices and educational institutions were closed yesterday in the curfew areas, said the officer in Jammu, the state's winter capital.

Kashmir, the western part of the state, is mostly Muslim, while the eastern Jammu area is mostly Hindu.

Muslims comprise 64 per cent of Jammu-Kashmir's 5 million people, making it the only state in India with a Muslim majority.

Indian Air Force copter crashes

NEW DELHI, Jan. 6, (AP) An air force helicopter crashed into a utility pylon in dense fog, killing two crewmen and injuring five others in northern India, Press Trust of India said.

The helicopter caught fire in Friday night's crash at Gorakhpur, 625 kms (390 miles) south-east of New Delhi, the news agency said.

Deadline for troops pullout, India, Lanka agree

NEW DELHI, Jan. 6, (Agencies) India and Sri Lanka agreed today that Indian troops would be withdrawn from the island nation by March 31.

A joint news release issued at the end of Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Ranjan Wijeratne's visit to New Delhi announced the agreement and said the countries also would sign a friendship treaty.

Sri Lanka had been pressing India to speed up the withdrawal of the 25,000 remaining soldiers originally sent to implement a peace plan aimed at halting Sri Lanka's Tamil insurgency.

"What else can we do? We can't push them into the ocean," Wijeratne said in an interview after meeting with Indian Prime Minister V.P. Singh.

"The Sri Lankans were very understanding," an Indian Foreign Ministry official said on condition of not being identified.

"They understood the logistical problem, they understood that we had no desire to stay longer than necessary."

The official said the Indian government would examine the possibility of completing the withdrawal earlier.

India's military deployment in Sri Lanka began in July 1987 and was intended to supervise the disarming of Tamil militants fighting for an independent nation.

But the biggest Tamil guerrilla group refused to honour an agreement to surrender and turned their guns on the Indians.

At the peak of the fighting, the Indian force numbered about 100,000 men, at least 1,100 Indian soldiers were killed.

The Sri Lankan government began pressing for a pullout of the troops last summer after peace talks with the Tamil guerrillas, India refused to have

itly withdraw its soldiers, saying it could lead to more violence.

Sri Lanka's president issued a July 29 deadline for the Indian withdrawal, and relations between the countries deteriorated when India said it would not meet the deadline.

The two countries then decided to complete the withdrawal by Dec. 31, but Singh, who took office Dec. 2, said logistical problems prevented India from meeting that date.

The Tamil separatist revolt began in 1983 and has left at least 11,000 people dead.

Tamil make up about 18 per cent of Sri Lanka's 16 million people. They allege the Sinhalese majority discriminates against them in jobs, education and use of the Sinhalese language.

Sinhalese comprise 75 per cent of the population.

India, Sri Lanka's northern neighbour, became involved in the peace efforts because it is the regional power and has a large Tamil population.

The declaration included a pledge by Sri Lanka that it would move swiftly to yield the administrative powers to the Indian-backed provincial council of Northeast Province, and that it would ensure full security after New Delhi's forces leave.

The two sides agreed to work jointly toward bringing an early end to the internecine fighting in the Northeastern Province, including the possibility of arranging a ceasefire," the statement said.

An Indian Foreign Ministry official told reporters that India and Sri Lanka had privately agreed to contact their Tamil rebel allies to persuade them to end the combat that has erupted, wherever Indian troops have been withdrawn.

Liberty bid frozen

NEW HAVEN, Connecticut, Jan. 6, (UPI) A Pakistani sailor from a Maltese freighter was in serious condition yesterday after he and a ship-mate jumped into the frigid New Haven harbour apparently seeking liberty after an arduous voyage.

US authorities also sought an unidentified third ship-mate who disappeared Wednesday while taking out the ship's laundry while the freighter, the Skyros, was in port to load scrap metal.

Khan Aleemuddin, 30, was pulled from 35-degree (2C) water in New Haven harbour by a US Coast Guard rescue vessel shortly after 3 am Thursday, said Khan's brother, David Skewes.

"He had experienced severe hypothermic exposure," Skewes said of Aleemuddin, who was in the intensive care unit yesterday at Yale-New Haven Hospital.

Indian court stays monkey's execution

NEW DELHI, India, Jan. 6, (AP) A judge in southern India stayed the execution of a monkey in response to pleas from animal lovers, a newspaper reported today.

The monkey, which is in police custody in the port city of Trivandrum, was to have been killed yesterday on an order issued by a local magistrate, the Hindu newspaper said.

Animal lovers filed a petition pleading that the monkey be spared and suggesting that it be banished to a wildlife sanctuary, the Madras-based newspaper said.

The Trivandrum sessions court yesterday issued a

stay of execution until Jan. 11 when a hearing will be conducted, the Hindu said.

The newspaper did not say why or when the monkey was captured, referring to it only as a "naughty monkey" who "fell into a police trap."

Indian newspapers frequently report monkeys terrorising school children, snatching their lunch boxes and even raiding homes in search for food.

Monkeys are a common sight in India. Many Hindus do not hurt them because they evoke images of the monkey-god Hanuman and his band of monkey warriors who defeated a demon king in Hindu mythology.

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مكتبة الأمل



A police blockade surrounds the farm where the bodies were found. (Reuters wirephoto)



Paramedics remove one of the five bodies. (Reuters wirephoto)

Thirteen indicted for mass killings

PAINESVILLE, Ohio, Jan. 6. (AP) A prosecutor investigating the deaths of five members of a family found buried under a quarry, barn floor, says the killings may have been human sacrifices, and a grand jury has indicted 13 people.

The grand jury, returning the indictments late yesterday in Painesville, charged reputed religious cult leader Jeffrey Lundgren, his wife, son and 10 members of his group in the deaths of the family.

Lake County prosecutor Steven C. Latourette said those indicted "are not crazy."

"They are the coolest, most inhuman people this county has ever seen. They're going to die in the electric chair for these crimes," he said.

The five dead are believed to be Dennis Avery, 49; his wife, Cheryl, 42; and their three daughters, Trina, 15; Rebecca, 13; and Karen, 7.

The Averys found Wednesday and Thursday at Lundgren's Kirtland farm, apparently were killed because of Lundgren's religious concept and a prophecy, Latourette said.

"Originally, this prophecy was that 10 of them had to die," said Latourette. He said members regarded killing as "a cleansing execution."

Seven of those charged were arrested in the Kansas City area by yesterday afternoon, said George Rodriguez of the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. Six others were being sought.

"We now have four people who have given us a full confession of their involvement," said Dave True, an ATF spokesman in Kansas City.

The Averys apparently were targeted as victims because they were less active in the group than others, Latourette said.

"The Averys were... falling out of grace," he said.

He said the Averys apparently never attempted to flee the communal farm, about 20 miles (32 km) east of Cleveland in the mid-western United States. Latourette said the Averys may have been killed over a "relatively short period of time," from April 16-18, 1989, but not "en masse."

While the bodies have yet to be positively identified, Latourette said an informant confirmed the identities of the victims, and Kirtland fire chief Richard A. Martineau said a picture of the Avery family was found in the barn.

Each of the victims was shot at least twice, according to an autopsy by Elizabeth Balraj, the coroner in neighbouring Cuyahoga county.

Rodriguez said the Averys were members of a splinter religious group led by Lundgren, a former lay minister of the reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

Pregnant wife slain for cash

Handgun still missing

BOSTON, Jan. 6. (UPI) Divers searched a suburban river yesterday for the handgun which police believe Charles Stuart used to kill his pregnant wife last fall in a murder case that triggered outrage over inner-city crime when it was first blamed on a black gunman. Investigators also sought the possibility that Stuart killed his wife in an elaborate hoax to collect on life insurance policies.

Stuart, 29, manager of an exclusive fur salon, killed himself Thursday by jumping off a Boston Bridge as police sought him for the Oct. 23 slaying of his wife, Carol. Police divers pulled Stuart's body from the mystic river six hours after his car was abandoned overhead.

WCVB-TV in Boston reported last night that Stuart admitted the killing on Wednesday, the day before he committed suicide.

The station said it was told by a source "close to the family" that Stuart said he committed the crime in order to cash in on an insurance policy on his wife, who was a lawyer.

WCVB-TV said Stuart—who was wounded in the incident—intended to shoot himself in the foot, but moved just before he pulled the trigger and the bullet struck him in the abdomen.

The source said that Stuart told him that he had asked another family member to kill Carol Stuart a month before the murder, but Stuart said that murder had nothing to do with the actual crime, the station reported.

As investigators worked yesterday to pin down other details in the bizarre case, including the possibility Stuart killed his wife to collect on life insurance policies totalling \$600,000, Boston's black community vented its anger over the case.

At two separate news conferences, religious and elected black leaders said their community was dealt an injustice by investigators and the media.

Stuart contended that he and his wife, of Reading, Massachusetts, were robbed and shot by a gunman after attending a class to prepare for natural childbirth at a Boston hospital. His story unravelled Wednesday, however, when his younger brother Matthew, 23, went to police with new evidence.

Matthew Stuart's lawyer, John Perenyi, said Matthew met his brother Charles in Boston by arrangement the night of the shooting.

Perenyi said Charles Stuart threw a bag apparently containing a gun, his wife's engagement ring, and other material into the window of Matthew's car and told him, "take this to Reverie," where their parents live.

"When he came back to his house after disposing of the contents of the bag, he learned that the motive for the crime was supposedly robbery, that some assailant had entered his brother's car and robbed them of their jewellery and money," Perenyi said.

"It dawned on Matthew, how could those things be in the bag if the assailant took them? Then he began to ask himself questions about what really happened."

Matthew Stuart gave police the diamond ring Wednesday night, and told them he had thrown the gun and bag into the Pines River in Revere.

Divers found a Gucci bag, a wallet, makeup and other personal belongings of Carol Stuart underneath a bridge over the Pines River. They returned yesterday seeking a nickel-plated .38-caliber revolver used in the Carol Stuart killing, but later postponed the search because of rising tides.

Charles Stuart told authorities he and his wife had just left a class at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston when a black gunman jumped into their car, forced them to drive to the city's predominantly black mission hill neighbourhood and then robbed and shot them.

Stuart, shot in the abdomen, called the 911 emergency system on his car phone. He said he was lost and appeared to drift in and out of consciousness because of his bullet wound. Dispatchers located the car by monitoring sirens heard over the car phone line. Dramatic recordings of the dispatchers' attempts to help Stuart were broadcast on news programme across the country.

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New gene linked to colon cancer

WASHINGTON, Jan. 6. (AP) Researchers at Johns Hopkins University said yesterday they have found a gene that may play a role in the formation of colon cancer, one of the most common—and deadly—type of cancer.

Dr. Bert Vogelstein, head of the research team, said the discovery had no immediate clinical application. However, he said, it could contribute to developing methods to detect the disease earlier, improving the chances of successful treatment.

Colon cancer is completely preventable if it can be identified at an early stage," Vogelstein said.

The gene is called DCC, for "deleted in colon cancer," because the Hopkins research found that it is altered in more than 70 per cent of the colon and rectal cancer studied.

The researchers' report on the DCC gene was published yesterday in the *Journal of Science*. The Hopkins team examined 41 colo-rectal

cancers, finding that in most of them the cells had only one copy of a part of human chromosome No. 18. Normal cells have two copies of this portion of chromosome 18. The missing part contained what the researchers called the DCC gene.

Normal cells contain 23 different and whole chromosomes, which form the package for all human genes. The genes in a cell direct the production of proteins that carry out biological functions, including the creation of new cells.

When these genes are altered, normal protein production is affected. That can lead to abnormal cell formation and, perhaps, disease.

Though discovery of the DCC gene has immediate application, Vogelstein said it theoretically could lead to a method of early detection of colon cancer. He said the mutated gene could produce an altered protein that might be detected in blood or stool samples. That, in turn, could lead to a direct molecular test for the early stages of cancer formation.

PEOPLE AND PLACES

FRAMINGHAM, Massachusetts: The estranged husband of President George Bush's daughter has pleaded guilty to charges of drunken driving and possession of marijuana, officials said Friday.

William Leblond, 32, of Cape Elizabeth, Maine, pleaded guilty Thursday to one count each of operating under the influence of alcohol and possession of a class D substance, marijuana, said Thomas Sessels, spokesman for the Middlesex County District Attorney's office.

Leblond, who is separated from the President's daughter Dorothy Bush Leblond, was arrested Nov. 10, 1989, after police stopped his pickup truck on route 62 in Maynard, a western suburb of Boston. Police had received reports that the truck had been travelling erratically. (UPI)

LOS ANGELES: A plane piloted by actor James Brodie burst into flames when taking off on Friday, but he narrowly escaped injury, police said.

Brodie, 49, who played Dr. Steve Kiley in 180 episodes of the television series "Mannix" and "Hill Street Blues," was taking off in his Cessna 182 from an airfield on the northern outskirts of Los Angeles when a gust of wind hurled the plane down an embankment, police said.

The \$25,000 aircraft was engulfed in flames and destroyed, but Brodie survived, a spokesman said. Brodie starred in the film "The Untouchables" and portrayed Clark Gable in "Gable and Lombard." (Reuters)

PROVIDENCE, Rhode Island: A Massachusetts man robbed four money bags from an armored truck Friday then outran construction workers for two blocks before two patrolmen nabbed him in a parking garage, police said.

The bags held \$200 in pennies. "It was unbelievable," detective Lt. Terrence Crowley said.

David Pessman, 33, of Salisbury, Mass., confronted the security guards about 3 pm as they went to make a pickup at 40 Westminster St. in the downtown business district.

Pessman allegedly ordered them to bring the truck behind a building, then hit the driver over the head with a bottle and made off with the bags. (UPI)

HARTFORD, Connecticut: A man who said he shot his neighbour to death because he was tired of the man's insults was sentenced to 30 years in prison for the slaying.

Efrain Figueroa, 48, who pleaded guilty to the shooting in Hartford superior court Thursday, said he emptied his gun into Jose Ribot, 34, on Sept. 17, 1988, then reloaded the .357 magnum revolver and fired again.

Figueroa said he was tired of Ribot's taunts and threats against him and his 79-year-old mother in the building they shared at the Dutch Point Housing Project. (UPI)

LOS ANGELES: It was a champagne and soap bubble wedding. "Hate" star Sam Belafonte and "Knots Landing" actor Sam Belafonte were married in a civil ceremony on the island of Barbados during the New Year's weekend, spokeswoman Susan Patriotic said.

The couple said their vows at Giltner Bay Resort in front of friends and family. Miss Belafonte, the daughter of singer Harry Belafonte, will live with her husband in Sherman Oaks. (AP)

LOS ANGELES: General Motors Corporation chairman Roger Smith does not see much humor in a documentary film named after him — "Roger and Me," which chronicles life in Flint, Michigan, where General Motors closed 11 plants.

Smith, at a news conference Wednesday to discuss GM's new electric-powered Impact car, said he had not seen the movie, did not plan to, and did not want to talk much about it. (AP)



Touring Harrods

Along with Queen Mary vice-president, Keith Kambak (left) His Royal Highness Prince Michael of Kent tours Harrods while aboard the Queen Mary ship Jan. 5. Harrods, the famous London store, opened its first signature store in the US aboard the Queen Mary in Long Beach. Shown here, the two men are checking out the exclusive Harrods Teddy Bear. (Reuters wirephoto)

ATLANTA: A lawsuit over Ringo Starr's attempt to block the release of a long and winding road Friday, when a judge ordered the former Beatle to pay record producer Chas. Moman more than \$74,000.

Superior court judge Clarence Cooper, who issued a permanent injunction in November preventing Moman's company from releasing the 1987 album, ruled that Starr must pay Moman \$74,354 to cover costs of the recording sessions, plus 7 per cent interest.

Starr contended he was under the influence of alcohol at the time the album was recorded and said he was not satisfied with the results after returning home to England and listening to the tapes. He sued Moman and his CRS Records of College Park, Georgia, to block the album's release. (AP)

LOS ANGELES: The \$100,000 Hammer Prize for cancer research will be awarded to Dr. Vincent T. DeVita Jr., former director of the National Cancer Institute, and Dr. Emil Freid Ili of Harvard University.

The recipients of the 1989 prize were announced Thursday by Armand Hammer, chairman and chief executive officer of Occidental Petroleum Corp. (AP)

DUNDALK, Maryland: The New Kids on the Block, the pop group with the hit album "As I Am" inspired a hearing-impaired toddler to begin speaking this fall, the little girl's mother said.

Dolores Watts said her daughter fell behind in her development after ear infections hurt her hearing at age 11 months. "She couldn't speak in sentences or even say mommy and daddy correctly," Mrs. Watts said.

Bid to punish sex offenders

Castration bill proposed

INDIANAPOLIS, Jan. 6. (UPI) A proposal to punish convicted sex offenders by castration has been introduced for the second straight year in the Indiana General Assembly.

The bill provides for removal of the ovaries for female offenders. State representative Richard Worden, Republican of New Haven, introduced his "sexualisation" bill this week, co-sponsored by state representative Paul Hric, Democrat of Hammond. Worden said his measure, calling for surgical castration as an option to a prison sentence, would deter rape.

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Paroled child killer charged

Rochester women serial murders

ROCHESTER, New York, Jan. 6. (UPI) A paroled child killer run out of a rural village by public outcry in 1987 was charged yesterday in the serial killings of eight women and is the prime suspect in three more slayings, police said.

At least nine of the 11 alleged victims of Arthur Shawcross, a balding and paunchy food service worker, were prostitutes, police said in what may be one of the largest serial killings cases in US history.

Shawcross, 44, was to be indicted for three additional killings over the next few days, bringing to 11 the number of murders he allegedly committed since March 1988 in and around Rochester.

Most of the victims were strangled or suffocated, authorities said.

The deaths of five other women are for now being considered unsolved murders, and the district attorney's office said "independent investigations" would continue in those killings.

The arrest drew rage yesterday from Robert Hill, a retired machinist whose 8-year-old daughter Karen Ann was strangled by Shawcross in 1972.

"I'd like him to be put away in the frying pan, double voltage, double amperage," Hill said from his home in Bristol, New Hampshire. "And the parole board that let him out should be made to

finish the sentence he was supposed to have had the first time."

Shawcross was on parole for a burglary conviction in 1972 when Jack Black, 10, disappeared from his Watertown home. The boy's body was found four months later — after Shawcross was arrested for the Hill killing. Shawcross then admitted killing both children.

Police began cracking the serial killer case Wednesday when a surveillance helicopter spotted a car speeding away from Northampton park, near where investigators found the body of June Cicero, a prostitute who had been missing since Dec. 17, state police superintendent Thomas Constantine said.

The helicopter followed the car to an unidentified nursing home, and then to Shawcross's home Wednesday.

Shawcross allegedly admitted to the slayings during interrogation Thursday and gave police information about the killing of Felicia Stephens, whose social security card and pants were discovered near Northampton Park Sunday.

Later Thursday, Shawcross was taken into custody and allegedly steered police to the bodies of two additional women in suburban Greece and Brockport, Constantine said.

Ike's kin to wed Soviet scientist

WASHINGTON, Jan 6, (UPI): In a romantic development that would melt any remaining vestiges of the cold war, former President Dwight Eisenhower's granddaughter Susan will marry a leading Soviet space scientist next month in Moscow.

"A year ago, I would have thought of it as science fiction," said Ronald Sagdeev, 57, who met Susan Eisenhower in 1987 at a conference on US-Soviet relations. But Eisenhower, 38, said the romance blossomed when they began working on his memoirs, which are due to be published next year. Their engagement was announced yesterday.

Sagdeev, a former adviser to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, belongs to the Congress of People's deputies and heads the theory division of the Space Research Institute. He is credited with helping to introduce aspects of glasnost to the Soviet space programme.

He said his marriage is a "very important symbol and indicator" of positive changes taking place in his homeland.

Eisenhower said she thought her grandfather would have been "extremely impressed" by her fiancé. "I can only judge his reaction by my father's who said he didn't see any reason in today's environment why this isn't entirely possible," she said.

"Ronald has distinguished himself as one of the leading voices for reform in the Soviet Union and has the reputation as a man of great integrity and honesty. Both are qualities my grandfather admired," Eisenhower said.

Sagdeev was a close friend and political ally of the late Andrei Sakharov, whom he met while working on secret space research, the Washington Post reported.

Sagdeev says he has not told Gorbachev about the Feb 9 marriage, but "I hope he knows it. I have spoken to some of his associates, though it was not an issue of asking permission. I have to tell you, I would never have expected such a positive reaction."

Eisenhower described the decision to marry as "evolutionary," but Sagdeev saw things a bit differently. At first, he felt "embarrassed" to ponder romance with someone with such a well-known political name.

Reagan's testimony was must

WASHINGTON, Jan 6, (AP): Oliver North's superiors, including Ronald Reagan, tried to cover up the Iran-Contra scandal and the ex-president should have been questioned on the matter at North's trial, lawyers for the former White House aide asserted yesterday.

"Mr Reagan was in a position to testify, as no other witness available to North could," about whether the president had authorized a cover-up of a 1985 shipment of Hawk missiles to Iran, North said in a 30-page briefing urging a federal appeals court to overturn his convictions.

National Security Adviser John Poindexter told North that Reagan at a Nov 12, 1986, meeting had not disclosed to congressional leaders his 1985 authorization for the Hawk shipment, North testified at his trial.

"That statement by Poindexter certainly provided a reasonable basis for concluding that Mr Reagan had made clear that US involvement in the Hawk shipment should not be disclosed to Congress," North's court filing said.

The filing said that "Mr Reagan's expected testimony also would have corroborated" North's statements in court that he had been ordered to cover up evidence of his assistance to the Contras by altering classified National Security Council documents.



Marino Mannoia: the first informer from the Sicilian mafia.

Birth defects, insulin link proved

Babies born to diabetic mothers face higher risk

WASHINGTON, Jan 6, (UPI): Babies born to diabetic mothers who use insulin may face a much higher risk for major birth defects than previously thought, US government researchers reported yesterday.

Researchers from the US Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta said their study of about 8,000 babies showed infants of insulin-dependent diabetes were eight times more likely to suffer major birth defects than those born to non-diabetics.

That birth defect risk "is substantially higher than the two-fold to three-fold increase generally accepted," in the past for babies born to insulin-dependent diabetes, researchers said in a study published in the journal Pediatrics.

Dr Jose Recerra and his colleagues based their study on medical records and telephone interviews with mothers of 4,929 malformed babies and 3,029 non-malformed babies born in the Atlanta area between 1968 and 1980.

In addition to the increased risk for all types of defects, researchers found babies born to insulin-dependent diabetes were 15 times more likely to have defects of the central nervous system and 18 times more likely to have malformed cardiovascular systems.

CDC researchers said one limitation of their study was the relative infrequency of insulin-dependent diabetes among pregnant women, a situation that could translate into "imprecision in the relative risk estimates."

Only 28 women in the study were insulin-dependent diabetics before they became pregnant.

The study also found no increased risk of birth defects among women who developed diabetes during pregnancy, but who did not require insulin. But women who developed insulin-dependent diabetes while pregnant were far more likely to give birth to babies with major cardiovascular defects than non-diabetics.



Christie's official

File photo of former French Ambassador to Britain Emmanuel de Margerie (L) with Ronald Reagan, French film star Catherine Deneuve and former US secretary of state George Shultz in the Oval Office. De Margerie has been appointed chairman of Christie's International. (Reuters wirephoto)

'Licence to kill' Ortega enemies

MANAGUA, Jan 6, (AP): A Defence Ministry communique giving the military what was interpreted as a licence to kill opposition leaders has sparked an election year firestorm between supporters and opponents of the left-Sandinista government.

The six-page "special communique," issued in the wake of the Dec 20 US invasion of Panama, listed actions to be taken by the armed forces in case of a similar American military intervention in Nicaragua.

"At the start of the Yankee intervention, all permanent military units, reserves, people's militias and counterintelligence, in close co-operation with state security, (should) apply the plans of neutralising, cutting off and executing all recalcitrant traitors who openly or covertly have been encouraging the Yankee intervention," it read in part.

Mariano Kiskadee, president of the Supreme Electoral Council, said the communique was leading up to a general election set for Feb 25, asked the government for an explanation.

Defence Minister Humberto Ortega's reply, in a letter published by the Sandinista newspaper Barricada yesterday, said the Dec 27 communique said it had "absolutely nothing to do with the electoral process."

The defence minister's brother, President Daniel Ortega, is seeking re-election, his main opponent is Violeta Barrios de Chamorro of the 14-party National Opposition Union. Mrs Chamorro is also publisher of La Prensa, Nicaragua's only opposition newspaper.

Although Fillos himself is a Sandinista Party member, his council's impartiality has met with the approval of a United Nations and other foreign observer missions here to monitor the electoral process.

Labial Riza of Pakistan, head of the UN observer mission, also has expressed his concern to Fillos about the communique. "He went to the council to raise the issue," said his spokesman.

A Union spokesman, Luis Sanchez Sanchez, issued a statement saying the communique "effectively calls for committing murders against the Nicaraguan opposition, who are invariably accused of being 'traitors,' by the Sandinista 'Revolutionary Councils'."

Daniel Lacayo, another UN spokesman, accused the Sandinistas of "encouraging aggression against political leaders and justifying such an aggression by saying it is done to protect the national sovereignty."

In an open letter published by La Prensa, Nicaraguan Bar Association secretary Orlando Castillo Sobalvarro called the communique an "instigation to the crime of genocide."

The United States is prepared to provide up to \$3 million to an international commission to begin planning the voluntary relocation of Nicaraguan Contras to their homeland if democratic conditions exist, it was announced Friday.

State Department Deputy Spokesman Richard Boucher said the funds would be given to a commission comprised of United Nations and Organisation of American States officials. The commission, known by its Spanish initials, CLAV, was set up partly to oversee the dismantling of the Contras, most of whom are based in Honduras.

W Germany probes arms sale: The West German authorities have searched several offices and seized documents believed to be linked to an alleged illegal sale of submarine blueprints to South Africa in 1985, an official spokesman said Friday.

The spokesman for the state prosecutor's office in the northern German city of Kiel said investigators were evaluating the documents.

He said that among the business premises searched were the offices at the West German Howaldtswerke Deutsche Werft — the shipyard that sold the documents for a reported 46 million Deutschmarks (\$27 million), allegedly without government approval. (UPI)

Horn chides Comecon: Hungarian Foreign Minister Gyula Horn said Friday the eastern trading bloc Comecon needs radical restructuring, and he defended this week's visit to Hungary of South African Foreign Minister Rudi Botha.

"Comecon is not only unsuitable to meet its tasks, but also costs too much in its present form. It needs a total overhaul," Horn told reporters prior to the Jan 9 conference of the council for mutual economic assistance in Sofia, Bulgaria.

"Hungary agrees that there is a need for radical reform," said Horn with reference to Czechoslovak Foreign Minister Jiri Dienstbier's similar views expressed in a Polish newspaper interview. (AP)



Befitting welcome

Susan Kellum embraces her husband, Sgt Victor Kellum, as he returns to Fort Ord from Panama. (Reuters wirephoto)

Jet engine missing: Investigators with the Madison County Sheriff's department found a missing engine Friday that fell off a Northwest Airlines jet a day earlier, possibly because of leaking toilet fluid, a sheriff's deputy said.

Sheriff Joe Reavy was at the scene where the 3,500-pound (1,600-kg) engine was found early Friday afternoon, in a field north of Madison off state highway 33, the deputy said.

The right rear engine had been missing since Thursday when it fell off the Boeing 727 jet, forcing the pilot to make an emergency landing at Tampa international airport. (UPI)

Viet vet may run for seat: Ron Kovic, the paralyzed Vietnam veteran whose life is the subject of the movie "Born on the Fourth of July" may run for the Congressional seat of conservative Republican Robert Dornan, it was reported Friday.

"We met with Mr Kovic. We encouraged him to run," Howard M. Schloss, a spokesman for the Democratic Congressional Campaign committee, told the Los Angeles Times.

The chief recruiter for the committee, representative Mike Synar, Democrat of Oklahoma, travelled to California to meet with Kovic, who was paralyzed by a bullet in Vietnam and later became prominent in the anti-war movement. (UPI)

Film endorses terrorism: Airline officials are angry that portions of Bruce Willis' "Die Hard II" will be shot at Stapleton international airport, contending that the film "is an endorsement of terrorism."

"It involves terrorism, violence against airports, destruction of an aircraft and a crash," Jack Ekey, general manager of United Airlines' Denver Operations, said Thursday.

"As a matter of principle, we don't believe that kind of thing represents either airports or airlines in a way which we see ourselves or want the public to see us," he said. (AP)

Disney reaches settlement: Walt Disney World has pleaded guilty to one federal misdemeanor charge for its handling of vultures that invaded the Discovery Island theme park.

As part of a settlement announced Friday, Disney agreed to pay a total of \$95,000 in fines and contributions to wildlife preservation agencies.

The charges were filed in September after the deaths of vultures and the alleged mistreatment of other birds at Discovery Island, an 11-acre zoological site. (AP)

Plead guilty to conspiracy: Two men who attempted to export sensitive US military weapons parts to South Africa have pleaded guilty to conspiracy and other charges, the government prosecutor said on Friday.

An indictment in the case filed in November charged that Frank Randazzo, Symone Behrmann and others engaged in a conspiracy from July 1987 to November 1988 to ship military equipment to South Africa.

They could face up to 15 years in prison and fines of up to \$1.5 million. Sentencing is set for April 20.

Africa
The indictment, which also charges Gambino's brother Giuseppe and 14 others with participating in a racketeering enterprise that carried out six killings, supersedes a December 1988 indictment and is the seventh filed in the case.

Giovanni Gambino was sentenced in absentia in Palermo appeals court in June 1984 to 6 years 6 months jail.

His Sicilian brothers, Rosario and Giuseppe (Joe), were each sentenced to 16 years and heavy fines for organizing and promoting a drug refining and trafficking ring in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

Giuseppe and Giovanni Gambino were acquitted in a 1984 federal drug trafficking case in New Jersey in which Rosario was sentenced to 45 years in prison.

Giovanni Gambino was also involved in the 1979 flight to Sicily of late Sicilian financier Michele

Sindona while Sindona was awaiting sentencing for the collapse of his Franklin National Bank in the United States.

Giovanni Gambino's lawyer, Robert Ellis, contended that his client, who he said suffered a paralyzing stroke in 1985 and underwent open heart surgery in 1987, was "seriously ill" and asked that he be released on his own recognizance.

Wearing a green hooded sweatshirt and a grey jacket, a pale green mock turban and a green scarf, Gambino was allowed to sit through the hearing before US magistrate Kathleen Roberts, as several of his distraught family members looked on.

Assistant US attorney Frances Frugos called Giovanni Gambino a risk to the community and said the government feared he would flee, prompting a young woman who was sitting in the front row with his family to throw up her hands.

Smoker's death suit overturned

PHILADELPHIA, Jan 6, (UPI): A federal appeals court yesterday overturned an unprecedented verdict that awarded \$400,000 to a New Jersey man who sued a tobacco company in his wife's lung cancer death, and it ordered a new trial.

In a decision that could be seen as a victory for both sides, the 3rd US circuit court of appeal blamed legal errors by a lower court in the 1988 jury award to Antonio Cipollone.

The verdict two years ago marked the first smoker's death suit lost by the tobacco industry, which spent millions of dollars fighting the case.

Both sides had appealed the tobacco company, Liggett Group Inc., to pay \$400,000 to Cipollone, whose wife Rose, died of lung cancer in 1984 at age 58 after smoking cigarettes for 42 years.

The jury award has never been

Concern over protein diets

Very low calorie diets sold over the counter and through doctors' offices can cause serious health problems and even death when used without proper supervision, experts said in Washington.

In today's journal of the American Medical Association, diet experts report concern about the diets' popularity, the number of unqualified doctors who offer them and their unsupervised use.

The doctors said the potential risks include heart disorder, excessive muscle loss, and permanent changes in the metabolism that cause weight gain from fewer calories.

At highest risk are people less than 40 pounds overweight, says Thomas Wadden, University of Pennsylvania school of medicine doctor. But the diets — powered protein mixes — can be safe when used by people who are 40 or more pounds overweight, free of heart disease, diabetes, or kidney, and liver problems. (Kuna)

Artificial heart recipient dies: A woman who set a 439-day survival record with an artificial heart died on Friday after a heart attack at a St. Louis hospital.

Carolyn Stadler, 57, of St. Charles, Missouri — who received a human heart four months ago — was the world's longest-living female artificial heart recipient.

She survived for 439 days with a Jarvik-7 artificial heart, intended to serve as a temporary heart while a donor heart is found.

Stadler, whose original heart had a defect, received her first heart transplant in 1988.

The transplant failed and was replaced with a Jarvik-7 artificial heart on July 6, 1988. She survived on the artificial heart until September 18, 1989, when it was replaced with a second human heart.

Stadler died after suffering a cardiac arrest, a hospital spokesman said. (Reuters)

Aids-related virus control: Additional public health efforts are needed to avert the spread of two viruses common to drug users and female prostitutes and linked to a lethal type of leukemia, researchers said in a study released Friday.

The viruses could be curbed by discouraging both shared hypodermic needles and unprotected sexual intercourse, two common ways the viruses are spread, said researchers at the federal Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta.

"Control measures, such as the use of condoms to prevent other sexually transmitted diseases... should be encouraged," Rima Khabbazi and her colleagues wrote in Friday's journal of the American Medical Association.

"Finally, control measures aimed at (intravenous) drug use and the sharing of needles and other blood-contaminated injection paraphernalia are urgently needed."

The viruses — distant cousins of the Aids virus — were previously found common among intravenous drug users, said the researchers, who interviewed and tested more than 1,300 prostitutes. (AP)

Guinea worm disease: The barriers to eliminating Guinea worm disease — a disabling infection that strikes 10 million people a year, mostly in Africa — are political and financial, not technical, US health officials say.

The Centers for Disease Control, in its weekly report Thursday, also said there's a failure in some parts of the world to "recognize the opportunity" that exists to get rid of the disease once and for all.

Guinea worm disease — or dracunculiasis — occurs in 16 African countries, India and Pakistan and is transmitted through drinking water contaminated with larvae of the Guinea worm. Nigeria alone reported more than 650,000 cases in the last year for which statistics are available, 1988.

When ingested, the larvae can mature in the stomach or intestinal tract of a person, becoming worms up to 47 inches (119 cm) long. After incubation of a year or so, the worms literally break through the body, emerging through the skin, usually in the lower legs. (AP)

Eye drug wins US approval: The US Food and Drug Administration Friday approved an injectable form of botulinum-causing toxin to treat eye muscle disorders that can cause cross-eye or shut eyelids. When people eat food contaminated with the toxin, they can develop botulism, a severe type of food poisoning that can lead to paralysis and death. But FDA officials said the toxin is authorized for use in strabismus, an eye muscle disorder characterized by cross-eye or wobble, and blepharospasm, another muscle problem in which eyelids involuntarily close. (UPI)

The prescription product was developed by Dr Alan Scott of Smith-Kettlewell Eye Research Foundation in San Francisco and is manufactured by Oculinum Inc. of Berkeley, California. It will be marketed under the trade name Oculinum by Allergan Inc. of Irvine, California.

FDA officials said the toxin is authorized for use in strabismus, an eye muscle disorder characterized by cross-eye or wobble, and blepharospasm, another muscle problem in which eyelids involuntarily close. (UPI)

FDA OKs drug: The Food and Drug Administration has given final approval to a drug to treat obsessive-compulsive disorder, a mental illness thought to afflict at least one in 40 Americans, officials said Thursday.

FDA spokeswoman Eve Kemper said the agency gave Ciba-Geigy Corp. of Summit, New Jersey, permission late last week to market clomipramine for use in people whose lives are seriously disrupted by obsessive-compulsive disorder.

Kemper said she did not know exactly how many of the estimated 5 million Americans with the mental disorder — marked by compulsive, repetitive acts like hand washing or floor scrubbing — might benefit from the drug.

Clomipramine, sold under the trade name Anafranil, has been available on a special case-by-case basis to US patients since June 1988.

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Both sides had appealed the tobacco company, Liggett Group Inc., to pay \$400,000 to Cipollone, whose wife Rose, died of lung cancer in 1984 at age 58 after smoking cigarettes for 42 years.

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The US district court jury in Newark, N.J., made two key findings in its verdict. It found that Liggett's cigarette advertising was an expressed warranty that smoking was safe, awarding the large sum to Cipollone.

He had also charged the company did not properly warn his wife of the hazards of smoking but received no money on that claim in the lawsuit. The jury judged his wife 80 per cent at fault for continuing to smoke after 1965, when warnings were placed on cigarette packs. Under New Jersey law, anyone found more than 50 per cent at fault for an injury cannot collect damages.

Drug cartel kidnaps twenty

BOGOTA, Jan 6, (AP): The Medellin drug cartel has abducted at least 20 people, many of them members of Colombia's richest families, as part of its terrorist offensive against the government, police said yesterday.

Most of the victims were abducted in Medellin, the hub of the country's cocaine trade, during the last two months, said a police spokesman in the city. The spokesman, reached by telephone, refused to identify himself.

A communique sent by the Medellin cartel to local media said traffickers had ordered the "leaders of working class neighbourhoods to take members of the traditional oligarchy hostage."

Half of the ransom paid by family members for the release of the hostages will be used to finance the war against the government of President Virgilio Barco, said the communique, published yesterday in local newspapers.

The cartel said it would use the other half of the money to finance the construction of housing for the needy. The communique did not mention the amount of ransom demanded by traffickers.

The cartel offered no explanation as to why it would need money at a time when its reputed leader, Pablo Escobar, has a personal fortune estimated at \$2 billion.

Government officials have suggested that Escobar's cocaine smuggling business has been hurt by the government's anti-drug crackdown and that he is suffering a liquidity problem.

More likely is the possibility that the cartel has adopted kidnapping as the latest weapon in its effort to try to pressure the government to abandon its anti-drug struggle.

Since Barco intensified the offensive last August, traffickers have responded with a wave of bombings and other terrorist attacks that have left 261 people dead and over 1,200 injured.

For their part, authorities have confiscated hundreds of properties allegedly belonging to the traffickers, extradited 11 drug suspects to the United States, and killed one leader of the Medellin cartel, Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha, in a gunfight.

The Medellin police spokesman said that security forces were tightening a net around Pablo Escobar and that his capture was merely a matter of time.

Leftist guerrillas bombed Colombia's main oil pipeline and killed four municipal officials in a town in the country's southwest, military spokesmen said yesterday.

The attacks, all blamed on the National Liberation Army (ELN), brought to 17 the number of people the group was reported to have killed this week.

The blast at the pipeline, which carries nearly all of Colombia's crude exports, was the first since the guerrillas threatened on Tuesday to renew their campaign of bombings against the country's oil industry after a four-month lull.

Five people were gunned down Friday, including a police inspector, during a raid by leftist rebels outside the town of El Carmen, police said.

It was the third raid this week that police have blamed on the National Liberation Army. The previous two attacks, both on Tuesday, left eight people dead and 24 wounded.

Salvador: The Catholic Church's human rights office said Friday at least 178 civilians were killed in 1989, mostly by right-wing death squads or the Salvadoran military, and 218 people disappeared during the same period.

Tutela Legal, the church's human rights commission, released a report for 1989 through Dec 21, saying 120 people were killed by "death squads" or the Salvadoran armed forces and 218 people were reported "disappeared" during the same period.

Peru: A report issued Friday said an average of nine people, mainly civilians, died every day in 1989, in the worst year of the 10-year-old guerrilla war.

The report by a Senate human rights commission put last year's death toll from politically inspired violence at 3,198, a steep rise from the 1988 figure of 1,986.

Chile: President-elect Patricio Aylwin met with the commanders of the air force and national police on Friday and asked them to stay on when 16 years of military rule ends in March.

Gen. Fernando Matthei, the air force chief, and Gen. Rodolfo Stange, national police director, are considered politically moderate. Both have advocated a return to the barracks and an exclusively professionally role for the military.

A quake of medium intensity shook northern Chile yesterday, sending alarm but no casualties or damage, the seismological institute of the University of Chile reported.

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Aylwin (right) shakes hands with Chilean Air Force Commander-in-Chief Matthei. (Reuters wirephoto)

مكتبة

Bush defends Baker on statements about China trips

WASHINGTON, Jan. 6, (AP): President George Bush yesterday defended his administration's failed attempt to keep secret a July visit to Beijing by two senior US officials.

As for the inaccurate statement by Secretary of State James Baker that the December trip by National Security Advisor Brent Scowcroft and Deputy

Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger to Beijing in December had been their first, Bush said: "I don't think Jim Baker would ever deliberately mislead somebody. And so I will stand — stand with him."

After the trip became known last month, Baker acknowledged he may have misled the public by saying that a

trip earlier that month to China by Scowcroft, and Eagleburger was their first mission to Beijing.

Baker said his intention had been to protect Bush and his policy.

The trips, for talks with Chinese leaders, were criticised in the US Congress and elsewhere as undercutting US disapproval of China's bloody crack-

down of pro-democracy forces and Bush's own policy of moderate punitive sanctions against the Chinese government.

Bush, responding to a question at a White House news conference, began by saying, "some things will be conducted in secrecy." Then he told reporters: "I know you don't like it. Your busi-

ness is to get everything out in the open and my business is to conduct the foreign affairs of this country in the way I think I was elected to."

He acknowledged that the missions to China were "controversial" and that "some think the best way to make change for human rights in China is isolation."

Bush said, however, that he had not chosen the path of "ex-communication" of the Chinese leaders.

Pressed about Baker's explanation that his intention had been to protect Bush, the President cut the questioner off.

"Ask him about it," Bush said. "I support my secretary of state."

Chinese UN staff refuse to return

UNITED NATIONS, Jan. 6, (AP): Nine Chinese UN employees are protesting orders to return home at the end of their contracts, saying their pro-democracy political activities are being held against them, UN staff officials said yesterday.

The UN Employees' Union has protested to Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar on their behalf, and requested that he investigate the situation, including alleged intimidation of Chinese staff by the Chinese government.

Union officials have said they will support the Chinese if they seek political asylum.

The complaint was lodged by UN staff committee president Lowell L. Flanders.

The secretary-general's spokesman, Francois Giulliani, said yesterday that the cases were examined and there was no possibility of renewing their secondment contracts.

"These contracts cannot be renewed unless their government asks us to do so," he said.

Secondment is the practice by which governments, many of them socialist, in effect lend their employees to the United Nations under contract for a specified period of time, often four to five years.

Yuan Shihong, councillor at the Chinese UN Mission, told the Associated Press yesterday "their contracts have expired and it is normal practice that they should go home because normally our people work in rotation."

Some of the Chinese employees took part in demonstrations against the Chinese government's crackdown on the pro-democracy movement in Tiananmen Square, he said, "but it has nothing to do with that."

Since the crackdown last June, there have been sympathy demonstrations, petitions and vigils by Chinese government employees overseas, including some at the United Nations.

China says the demonstrators were part of a counter-revolutionary group bent on destroying Chinese socialism and toppling the Chinese Communist Party and government.

Of the 12,338 UN staff employees in New York, Geneva and Vienna, about 275 are from China, Flanders said. The complaint concerns five employees in New York, two in Geneva and two in Vienna, including typists, translators and Chinese language reporters.

There are potentially more Chinese UN employees involved, he said, but he accused the UN system of bowing to pressure from the Chinese government and not wanting to offend a major power.

Flanders said the staff committee has met with the secretary-general several times over several months and has urged him to respect a statement he reportedly made in Vienna in July that no repatriation from UN service would be carried out if it was not voluntary.

A leading government newspaper carried a sharp attack today on a prominent dissident writer reportedly held by police since the suppression of the democracy movement last year, and it warned the crackdown on dissent is "not finished."

A commentary in the Communist Party newspaper People's Daily charged Shanghai writer Wang Ruowang, 71, a veteran liberal critic of the party, "worshipped and had blind faith in foreign countries" in supporting last spring's pro-democracy protests.

Chinese police have detained an elderly US teacher at a Beijing College for allegedly taking photographs that "they termed pornography," a US embassy spokesman said today.

Other foreign teachers acquainted with the man detained, however, said they believed the incident may be politically motivated because he is a Romanian ethnic.

Noriega's attorneys rule out plea bargain

General expects he will be acquitted

MIAMI, Jan. 6, (AP): Attorneys for ousted Panamanian ruler Manuel Antonio Noriega say they aren't seeking a plea bargain and will move ahead with plans to bombard a federal court with motions to dismiss drug-trafficking charges.

Meanwhile, Noriega remains hidden from the public eye, reportedly in a subterranean room at the federal courthouse where he has met several times with defence attorneys.

"A man who is innocent is not receptive to any plea bargain," defence lawyer Steven Kollin said yesterday after a two-hour conference with

Kollin said he has "absolutely" ruled out a plea bargain with the government. US Justice Department officials have been quoted in published reports as saying they might be interested in striking a deal in exchange for information about Latin American drug networks.

Federal prosecutors also said they were gearing up for a trial.

"We are not seeking any kind of agreement of any sort," Justice Department spokesman David Runkel said. "We are preparing for trial."

President George Bush, who announced yesterday that he is sending Vice President Dan Quayle on a Latin American diplomatic mission in hopes of repairing relations with those nations after the Panama invasion, also denied that the administration was seeking a deal with Noriega.

Bush refused to rule out a plea bargain, however. He said Noriega has the same right as any federal prisoner to seek a deal.

Speculation on a plea bargain is linked to the possibility Noriega's trial might expose embarrassing details of his long-time connections with the CIA.

Kollin promised to seek Noriega's CIA files.

Frank Rubino, another of Noriega's attorneys, said a number of motions are planned to challenge the US district court's jurisdiction over the 51-year-old Noriega, who could be sentenced to 145 years in prison and fined \$1.5 million if convicted of the drug trafficking charges against him.

Among the planned motions will be claims the case is politically motivated and Noriega is a head of state subject to diplomatic immunity, Rubino said. Other charges will be that the US invasion of Panama Dec 20 violated international treaties, he said.

Rubino said it could take nine months to prepare for trial.

Noriega, who surrendered to US troops in Panama City Wednesday night, is charged with taking \$4.6 million in bribes from Colombia's Medellin drug cartel to turn his nation into a way station for the cocaine trade.

Noriega was among 16 people indicted by a federal grand jury in Miami in February 1988. Noriega and five others named in the indictment have been arraigned.

Federal officials refuse to divulge Noriega's whereabouts. But US marshals have assured the Miami-based defence team that Noriega can be made available within an hour.

During arraignment Thursday before US district judge William Hoelwer, the judge entered a plea of innocent after Noriega refused to answer to charges and Rubino claimed he was a political prisoner. Noriega was ordered held without bond.

Noriega was spirited into the downtown Miami courthouse early Thursday after arriving at Homestead Air Force Base aboard a C-130 plane. He surrendered to US troops after 10 days inside the Vatican embassy in Panama City.

Noriega's wife described him as a model husband and loving father, and said in an interview being published today that he was innocent of US drug trafficking charges.

Vatican envoy warned Noriega he risked lynching by angry mobs

PANAMA CITY, Jan. 6, (Reuters): The Vatican's ambassador in Panama said yesterday he had warned deposed strongman General Manuel Antonio Noriega he faced lynching by angry mobs if he did not give himself up, but denied he gave Noriega a deadline to leave the mission.

Papal Nuncio Jose Sebastian Laboa, who negotiated with US and Panamanian officials for 10 days while Noriega was holed up in his embassy, said he told Noriega he must make his own decision to leave.

"The ideal solution could only be to convince

him to turn himself over not to US forces but to American justice," he told reporters.

Noriega surrendered to US officials on Wednesday night and was flown to Florida, where he made a court appearance on Thursday charged with drug trafficking.

Laboa said he told Noriega it was possible a mob could burst into the embassy to seize him, much in the manner that Benito Mussolini met his end.

"I reminded him of the danger of being lynched like Mussolini," Laboa said, referring to the wartime Italian dictator who was hanged by

his people. "That would not be very worthy of you," he said he had told Noriega.

He told Noriega that American soldiers guarding the embassy would not act against the masses and it might be impossible to keep them out. "A situation could be created which US troops could not control," he said.

Laboa denied reports from a US official in Washington that he had given Noriega a deadline of noon Thursday to leave the mission. Laboa said the primary pressure on Noriega to leave had come from his aides, bodyguard Eliecer Gaitan and secret police chief Nivaldo

Madriana, who also took refuge in the embassy. The aides believed the US could instigate a mob of anti-Noriega Panamanians to go into the embassy and get the general, he said.

Laboa said he had also thought about the possibility that Noriega might try to commit suicide and had asked US forces to have doctors ready in case.

The \$1-million reward offered by President George Bush for information leading to the capture of Noriega will apparently go unclaimed, administration officials said.

Harari denies drugs links

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Jan. 6, (Agencies): A former Israeli intelligence officer has denied reports he was a military adviser to ousted Panamanian Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega or that he was involved in arms and drug dealings.

In his first public interview since the United States invaded Panama Dec 20, Michael Harari told Israeli Television yesterday that he also never was detained by US authorities. His whereabouts since the invasion had been a mystery.

"As you can see, I'm here. I did not arrive (disguised) as a blonde girl and did not come in a suitcase. My name is Mike Harari, Michael Harari," he said in a taped interview recorded in Israel Television studio and broadcast last night.

The television did not say when the interview was filmed, but it first reported that Harari was in the country on Dec 30.

Last weekend, a senior US Embassy official retracted a statement that Harari had been captured by US troops Dec 27. The official said there was no evidence that Harari had been in custody.

Harari, who retired in 1979 from Israel's intelligence agency Mossad after more than 30 years, told Israeli Television he had been in Panama when the fighting erupted and returned to Israel on his own without help from any officials.

Harari denied reports linking him to arms and drug deals. He also criticised the media for conducting what he called a campaign of disinformation against him, maintaining he never was Noriega's right-hand man or advised the Panamanian military forces.

"I am simply a private businessman," Harari said.

During a visit to Israel in 1987, Harari told reporters he was involved in civilian business dealings in Panama, selling solar water heaters and farming equipment and operating three small farms.

US and Israeli sources have said US officials believed Harari helped Noriega survive civilian challenges to his rule and was acting with the Israeli government's unofficial blessing in his dealings with the Panamanian general.

Israel has enjoyed close ties to Panama, which has a large Jewish population.

Israeli officials, however, have maintained that they have no control over Harari because he is a private citizen and not acting in an official capacity for the state of Israel.

Harari's name surfaced in September 1987 in opposition leaflets distributed in Panama accusing him of being "the man behind the dictator," and arranging military equipment sales to the Panama Defence Forces.

Harari was part of the elite team of Mossad agents who tracked down and killed a number of terrorists involved in the 1972 Munich Olympics massacre, sources said. Eleven members of the Israeli Olympic delegation were killed.

Harari retired from Mossad after agents under his command killed a Moroccan waiter in Norway in late 1978 when they mistook him for the Palestinian commando leader Sabri al Banna, known as Abu Nidal, sources said.

Harari had been head of Mossad in Central America and Mexico, and first met Noriega in 1973.

The case is also described in the book "The Quest for the Red Prince" by the Israeli authors Michael Bar Zohar and Eitan Haber. In the book, the team leader is referred to as "Mike."



Bush speaks at a news conference. (Reuters wirephoto)



A newspaper vendor holds up copies of 'Panama America' which reappeared on streets after being closed down 21 years ago. (Reuters wirephoto)

Quayle to cool Latam tempers

WASHINGTON, Jan. 6, (AP): President George Bush says rebuilding Panama's economy is a "major priority" of his government, and he is sending Vice President Dan Quayle on a mission to repair relations with Latin American nations.

Bush said yesterday he would dispatch Quayle to tour the region and try to reverse the negative reaction to the US invasion of Panama, which was roundly deplored in Central and South America.

"I am concerned, because I am well aware of how our friends south of our border ... look at the use of American force anywhere," Bush said at a White House news conference.

He added, however, that he believes the diplomatic damage is "correctable."

A US government official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Bush also is considering a trip to Panama, though the president said he had "no plans" for such a trip.

Bush did not say how much money the United States might spend to help Panama recover, but estimates of invasion-related damage have ranged up to \$2 billion.

Government officials said the Bush administration is considering several ways to help Panama, including building new housing for people left homeless; helping Panama pay \$543 million in foreign debt; getting other nations involved in the recovery efforts; and facilitating loans for businesses.

While recommendations have yet to be drawn up and presented to Bush, one administration source said, "there's a sense of urgency and we want to move quickly and respond quickly."

Responding to questions from reporters, Bush said the government was "not seeking a deal" with deposed Panamanian leader Manuel Antonio Noriega, who is in US custody awaiting trial on drug trafficking charges.

Link with CIA threatens US

Noriega's trial

MIAMI, Jan. 6, (AP): One of the thorniest issues facing Manuel Antonio Noriega's prosecutors is the threat that his trial might expose embarrassing details about the ousted Panamanian leader's longtime connections with US intelligence agencies.

The former US attorney who forged the February 1988 drug-trafficking indictment against Noriega said yesterday that during his investigation he was thwarted in his efforts to see CIA material bearing on the case.

"I went to look at what they had, but it was worthless — it couldn't be all there was," said Richard Gregorie, now in private practice here.

Viewing any tapes, photos or documents bearing on the case is essential for prosecutors, he said.

"It could be exculpatory if Noriega had ever told anybody about narcotics activity, which he could use to say he was acting as an agent" in his dealings with Colombia's Medellin cocaine cartel, said Gregorie.

Noriega's defence attorney Steven Kollin has said he will seek Noriega's CIA files.

"We're looking for the truth and the only way to get to the truth is to get to those documents," Kollin said.

There is ample evidence that Noriega had some relationship with the CIA and other US agencies, but the exact extent is disputed or still secret.

In August 1988, the White House halted a general accounting office probe into those connections, refusing to turn over material requested because it was beyond the congressional agency's authority and dealt with "sensitive intelligence material," according to presidential spokesman Martin Fitzwater.

The CIA used Noriega as an

"asset" from the 1970s on, according to congressional testimony, with some witnesses saying he eventually was paid as much as \$200,000 a year for information when he became head of his nation's intelligence service and then commander of the armed forces in 1983.

That period included George Bush's term as CIA director in the mid-1970s under President Gerald Ford. Bush has since said that although there were reports of Noriega's drug dealing at that time, he had no proof then.

One of the principal witnesses cited in the indictment was Jose Blandon, a former top member of Panama's intelligence apparatus who fell out with Noriega and fled to the United States.

His grand jury testimony is secret, but Blandon told a Senate subcommittee just after the indictment that Noriega had met twice with then-National Security Council representative Lt. Col. Oliver North in 1985 to find ways around the congressional ban on aid to the Contra rebels in Nicaragua.

A grand jury is a panel of citizens who review evidence and decide whether a case should go to trial and, if so, which charges should be filed.

Blandon also told senators that Bush, then Vice President, called Noriega before the 1983 invasion of Grenada to ask him to intercede with Cuban President Fidel Castro. Blandon said Bush wanted Castro to tell his troops on the Caribbean island not to fire on US forces.

Bush at the time of the hearing called Blandon's account a "total fabrication."

Blandon also said the CIA sent Noriega files on the private lives of US senators with an interest in Panama.



Starting new lives

Dozens of former re-education camp inmates and their relatives arrived Saturday from Vietnam en route to new lives in the United States.

It was the second day of the first major settlement of people imprisoned because they served the US-backed South Vietnam government that Communist forces toppled in April 1975.

A total of 151 former inmates and their families arrived in Bangkok Saturday on morning and afternoon charter flights from Ho Chi Minh City, said Komol Srinakul of the international organisation for migration.

The agency handles medical processing and transportation of the refugees. On Friday, 156 arrived.

The Vietnamese will join relatives in California and other US states after a few days in a Thai immigration facility.

In Washington, US State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said Friday that his government hopes at least 7,000 former detainees and their relatives will be resettled by Sept 30. (Reuters wirephoto)

Abe to meet Gorbachev

Isles to be discussed

TOKYO, Jan. 6, (UPI): Former foreign minister Shintaro Abe said yesterday that he will visit Moscow to meet Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev on Jan 15.

"I hope to discuss with Mr Gorbachev frankly over broad issues such as territorial issues and economic co-operations and to pave the way for his planned visit to Japan next year," said Abe, one of leading successors to Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, at a press conference in Yamaguchi, west Japan.

Gorbachev is planning to visit Japan in 1991 as the first ever Soviet leader.

Abe will leave for a three-day visit to Moscow on Jan 13, leading a delegation of the Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party, he said.

The Soviet Communist Party told Abe's office yesterday that a meeting between the Kremlin leader and Abe was set at 11:00 am on Jan 15. Foreign Ministry officials said.

Abe will exchange views over bilateral relationship, including

the northern territorial issue which has long been stymying improved relations between Japan and the Soviet Union.

Japan and the Soviet Union have been disputing over four small islands off the northeastern tip of Hokkaido, which Soviet seized from Japan during World War II.

Abe will also express his party's positive supports for Gorbachev's reform policy, or perestroika, he said.

Abe will also meet Soviet Foreign Minister Edward Shevardnadze and Aleksander Yakovlev, a high-powered Soviet Politburo member during his three-day visit.

Abe, 65, is one of the LDP leader and served as foreign minister and the LDP secretary-general.

Abe will meet Kaifu and the LDP secretary-general Ichiro Ozawa Monday to inform the meeting with Gorbachev and discuss over the selection of the delegation members, the officials said.

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Several thousand Bulgarians demonstrate in Kardzhali. (Reuters wirephoto)

Bulgaria lifts restrictions on ethnic Turks

Sofia appeals for end to strife

SOFIA, Jan 6, (AP): Communist leaders are appealing for ethnic unity after nine cities and towns were hit by strikes and demonstrations by Bulgaria's Slavic majority in protest over new rights being given to ethnic Turks.

On Friday, ethnic Bulgarians staged strikes and demonstrations to protest a Dec 29 decision by the Communist Party to allow ethnic Turks and Muslims to use their own names and language, and practice Muslim religious rites without restrictions.

The party's decision reversed a policy pursued by ousted leader, Todor Zhivkov, of forcibly assimilating the minority Turkish and Muslim population of one million people by giving them Bulgarian names, prohibiting them from speaking Turkish in public and restricting Muslim religious rights.

On Thursday, thousands of Bulgarians waving the red, white and green national flag and chanting "Bulgaria for the Bulgarians" protested outside the

National Assembly in Sofia.

They demanded that the Dec 29 decision be reversed and a referendum be held on ethnic rights.

The ruling communists and the democratic opposition rejected the demands in a joint appeal for ethnic calm.

Protest strikes flared yesterday in Kardzhali, where almost half the 50,000 inhabitants are ethnic Turks, and nearby Haskovo, where 25,000 people rallied under such slogans as "the central committee sold out Bulgaria."

Most of Kardzhali's population was reported on the streets and strikes shut down all enterprises and public transportation. Reports reaching Sofia said both ethnic Bulgarians and what the state news agency BTA called "the Muslim population" staged different demonstrations. There were no reports of violence.

BTA said work stoppages and demonstrations also took place in Plovdiv, Bulgaria's second largest city, the central town of Stara Zagora, the northern cities of Ruse, Razgrad and Silistra and the eastern towns of Shumen and Varna.

Thousands rallied for five hours outside Communist Party headquarters in Shumen, where rail traffic was paralyzed all afternoon, BTA said. In Silistra, students threatened a hunger strike against the ruling, it added.

The Defence Ministry meanwhile pledged that the southern border with Turkey was secure. Turkey said on Thursday that the protests could damage the already tense relations between the two nations.

The ministry said in a statement that it was responding to questions from "a number of citizens" worried about national security.

Communist Party chief Petar Mladenov yesterday met representatives from Kardzhali and Haskovo in Sofia, BTA said. It reported only that he stressed the need for unity among Bulgaria's nearly nine million citizens.

Azeris continue border assault

MOSCOW, Jan 6, (Agencies): Crowds of Azeris began tearing down remaining border installations along a stretch of the Soviet frontier with Iran today but troops patrolling the troubled Azerbaijan region of Nakhichevan did not intervene.

In another development, Iran sent a Foreign Ministry team to the Soviet Union.

The Iranian news agency Irna quoted "informed sources" as saying the delegation headed by Deputy Foreign Minister Mahmud Vaezi would carry a message from Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati for his Soviet counterpart Eduard Shevardnadze.

It quoted the sources as saying the message dealt with mutual ties, but did not specify if this included unrest in neighbouring Soviet Azerbaijan.

Irna said earlier Iran and the Soviet Union signed a tourism agreement on Friday under which Soviets wishing to visit Iran from Azerbaijan would receive special help.

Local journalists said Nakhichevan, some of a week of turmoil with predominantly Shiite Muslim Azeris demanding more freedom and freer access to Iranian Shiites across the border, remained tense.

They said angry crowds had rejected a call by an official delegation yesterday for damaged border posts, barbed wire and other installations to be replaced.

Instead protesters headed for a stretch of the border today to complete the destruction of frontier posts.

Britain censors lasers report

MADRID, Jan 6, (AP): The British government prevented publication of newspaper articles about lasers installed on British warships capable of blinding enemy pilots, a Spanish newspaper said yesterday.

In its Jan 6 issue, Tiempo said the British Ministry of Defence prevented the Mail on Sunday and the Sunday Times from publishing reports on the lasers.

The magazine said the lasers were first displayed during a NATO naval exercise dubbed deterrent force held in the Mediterranean from last October 9 to November 14 in which ships from eight of the 16 member nations of the North Atlantic Alliance participated.

The magazine said the lasers were installed on the British frigate Coventry, adding they were shielded from view by canvas covers.

An unnamed high official, apparently from the Spanish Navy from the gist of the article, was quoted by the magazine as saying the lasers were "capable of searing the pupil of the human eye in fractions of a second."

The same source told Tiempo the lasers were not used during the exercise for security reasons.

The magazine said further investigation revealed the lasers have also been installed on British warships of the type 22 block 2 category for the past several years.

The new frigate Sheffield, which replaced the earlier Sheffield sunk by the Argentine Air Force during the 1982 Falklands War, is reportedly fitted with the laser, the magazine said.

The magazine said the lasers were also mounted on the British frigate Brilliant which formed part of a British naval task force dubbed the "Armilla Patrol" during the Gulf War.

The magazine said the report on the lasers was to have been published in the December 3 edition of the Mail on Sunday. It did not say when the Sunday Times had planned to publish its story.

NATO forces will hold military exercises this month and next in West Germany and Norway, the alliance announced Thursday.

The European military command of the 16-nation North Atlantic Treaty Organisation said in a statement that flying manoeuvre, called "Cold Fire 90," will take place Jan 15-21 in southern Germany.

NATO said on Thursday it had appointed an Italian admiral as the new commander of the Alliance's Naval Forces in southern Europe.

A statement from NATO's military headquarters in Belgium said Admiral Antonio Geraci, 61, would take over on January 11.

UK Teenage crimes: British parents are to be put in the dock with their wayward children as part of an offensive on teenage crime, it was reported here.

British Home Secretary David Waddington said mothers and fathers would have to watch as their offspring faced the force of the law.

And they would have to guarantee their children's future good behaviour by being bound over themselves, facing heavy fines if further crimes were committed. (Kuna)

IRA arms haul: British police said on Friday they had found a haul of the Irish Republican Army's (IRA) favourite plastic explosive, semtex, in raids in two towns north of London last month.

Anti-terrorist branch officers raided two houses in the towns of Luton and Dunstable on Dec 22 and found 15 pounds (seven kg) of the explosive as well as unspecified weapons. Four people were arrested but released without charge. (Reuters)

UK death toll rises: Thousands more people than expected died in England and Wales in December, official figures showed yesterday.

Records kept by the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys revealed a sudden upsurge in the deaths greatly in excess of the normal winter increase.

It culminated in a death toll of 17,613 in the week ended December 15, 5,000 more than expected. (Kuna)

UK Rushdie affair: The Rushdie affair could be a threat to MPs from Britain's main opposition Labour Party in previously safe seats if "disillusioned" Muslims back the New Islamic Party, it was suggested yesterday.

The "main plank" of the party, launched last September, is to introduce an interest free banking system, the independent newspaper pointed out. (Kuna)

Rockets to help weather study: The biggest-ever survey of weather in the upper atmosphere begins this month, with rockets launched from six countries, including the United States and the Soviet Union, scientists said on Friday.

The study, with its main European base at Andoya in northern Norway, will explore the effect of sunrays on the atmosphere by sending several hundred unmanned rockets up to 120 kilometres (75 miles) into space.

The rockets will be launched simultaneously from Norway, the United States, the Soviet Union, India, Japan and Indonesia over a three-month period starting in early January. (Reuters)

Albania quiet

The Albanian envoy to Greece Friday denied reports of unrest in his country and that four ethnic Greeks had been killed for attempting to flee.

Ambassador Izidin Haidini said it was quiet in Albania and added that university students are not demonstrating against the government as some international news reports, "especially Yugoslav," claim.

In an attempt to dispel Orthodox Church of Greece charges that four brothers from the Greek minority had died from torture in October after they were allegedly caught trying to flee to neighbouring Greece, Haidini showed a film purporting that they were alive. Picture shows Leka, head of a self-styled Albanian government-in-exile, gives details in his office of his plans to start radio campaign to topple the hardline communist regime. (Reuters wirephoto)

Polish reds asked to make confession

WARSAW, Jan 6, (Reuters): Poland's Communist Party leaders were asked to sign a humiliating public confession of errors as they met today for the last time to prepare for the party's dissolution.

The 230-member central committee, meeting to finalise plans for dissolving the Polish United Workers Party (PUWP) this month and creating a new non-Marxist party, was presented with a policy statement which condemned and renounced virtually all the party's work during its 45 years of dictatorial rule.

It labelled communism "erroneous" and accused the party of "Stalinist crimes" and creating economic and social crisis.

The party, which lost power to a Solidarity-led government in September, will be the second to disband amid the political upheavals in Eastern Europe at a congress opening on January 27.

Hungary's communists dissolved their party in October.

Europe

Genscher backs summit call: West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher yesterday backed a Soviet call for a summit on Europe's future and suggested it might enshrine the right to free elections as a human right.

Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev called last month for a summit in 1990 of the 35-nation Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSC) which groups all European countries except Albania with the United States and Canada.

Gorbachev's proposal was "the correct conclusion in the stormy developments in which we find ourselves," Genscher told a meeting of his Liberal Free Democratic Party. (Reuters)

Free elections in Czechoslovakia: The communists, the opposition and other political groups agreed Friday that free elections should be held by June, the state news agency CTK reported.

Civic Forum, the umbrella opposition group now governing in coalition with the communists and other official parties, had been pressing for June elections to the 350-member parliament, now dominated by the communists.

Some communist leaders also have talked of holding elections in the first half of 1990. (AP)

Czechoslovakia welcomes back emigres: The new Czechoslovak government on Friday appealed to people of Czechoslovak origin living abroad to return home and help rebuild the country.

Czechoslovakia, where the Communist Party lost its monopoly of power five weeks ago, needed their help, said a statement published in the daily newspaper Lidova Democracie. (Reuters)

73 women committed suicide: Seventy-three women in Soviet Central Asia committed suicide last year by setting themselves on fire to escape abuse by tyrannical fathers and husbands, a Soviet newspaper said yesterday.

Soyuz, a weekly supplement to the daily newspaper Izvestia, said the victims, in the Muslim-dominated Republic of Turkmenia, found no other way out in a culture that placed little value on their happiness or desires. (Reuters)

Hungary's opposition leaders splied: Opposition leaders, preparing for Hungary's first free nation-wide elections in more than 40 years, on Friday accused the Hungarian Interior Ministry of spying on them and offered documents they said provided.

Premier Miklos Nemeth urged prosecutors to investigate, and promised the findings would be swiftly disclosed. (AP)

720,000 E. Europeans moved to W. Germany: More than 720,000 East Europeans resettled in West Germany in 1989 in the largest migration wave of ethnic-Germans in the nation's 40-year history, the Interior Ministry reported on Friday.

In a statement to the news media, the ministry said that more than half of the resettlers — 343,854 — were from East Germany.

In 1988, the number of East German arrivals was 39,832.

The number of arrivals from other Eastern European countries last year was 377,055, compared with 202, 673 in 1988.

France trace truffle traffickers: Sharp-eyed detectives investigating a big increase in purchases of walnut dye have uncovered a lucrative traffic in truffles, one of France's most expensive culinary delights.

Police in southwest France said the ring bought white truffles in Italy at about 400 francs (\$70) a kilo (2.2 pounds) and stained them with walnut dye to pass them off as black truffles, which fetch 10 times that price.

The rare black truffle is a fungus found growing under oaks by sows specially trained to sniff them out. (Reuters)

Asia

Stop storing children in sandbags: A tradition practised in parts of northern China has prompted a warning from Chinese researchers to parents: Stop storing children in sandbags.

The China Daily, a state-run newspaper, reported yesterday that experts from the China Children's Development Centre issued the warning after a survey showed the practice leads to health problems and increased levels of mental retardation.

The sandbag practice, a kind of rural day-care, is hundreds of years old in parts of north China. Parents leave infants up to their waists in cloth bags filled with sand while they work in the fields during the day.

The infant can stretch his legs, but cannot crawl. The bag is tied so that the child cannot move anything from bag to mouth, and the sand serves as a diaper that is changed each night. The infants are moved from the bag during the day only for feeding.

But the experts told the English-language newspaper that the practice has been found "extremely harmful" to infants, affecting height, weight and intelligence. Many of the sandbag-reared children are shorter and skinnier than the general population, they said. (UPI)

China faces birth rate explosion: China, the world's most populous nation, is facing a birth rate explosion in the 1990's.

The official Guangming daily yesterday quoted population experts as saying between 11 and 13 million women would reach child-bearing age annually in this decade.

That rate of increase would be twice as fast as during two previous population booms, the newspaper said, without elaborating.

Liu Zhong, deputy president of the China Society for Population Studies, told a government conference birth control education must be enforced among the 340 million Chinese women capable of having children by the year 2000. (Reuters)

Call to withdraw foreign troops

East Germany proposes troops cuts

EAST BERLIN, Jan 6, (Reuters): East German Communist Party leader Gregor Gysi urged today that all foreign troops should leave East and West Germany by 1999 and both states should halve their own armed forces by 1991.

Gysi, whose party heads a transitional government in the runup to free elections in May, said the two Germanys should take the initiative in disarming central Europe.

But, he said, the Soviet Union, the United States, Britain and France, who have kept troops on German territory since they combined to defeat Nazi forces in 1945, should play their part.

"The allies are urged," Gysi said, "to prepare their troops for complete, planned withdrawal in stages by 1999, beginning with the border zone," according to the official ADN news agency, reporting a meeting of the party's executive.

Gysi has no government position. But his speech, which expanded into utopian visions of a Europe with no armies at all, clearly turned the spotlight onto the sensitive issue of allied troop presence in the two German states.

Hans-Heino Kopietz of the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) said a 10-year pullout was possible if democratic reforms took root in East Europe.

"The timetable is realistic, granted that the Soviets continue their pullback. That kind of timespan is already widely under discussion in Washington and elsewhere," he told Reuters.

The Soviet Union has some 380,000 troops in East Germany, while West German territory affords bases to 246,000 US troops, 67,000 British and 50,000 French. The three western allies also keep joint forces of 11,000 in West Berlin.

The Soviet Union is currently withdrawing some 50,000 troops from central Europe, including East Germany, as part of unilateral troop cuts of half a million soldiers. But 23-nation talks are under way in Vienna to reduce arms throughout Europe.

The allied troops presence here is closely tied with the continued division of Europe. Though no longer referred to as occupation forces, they still enjoy special rights in the two German states that grew out of their occupation zones.

"Without an end to military rivalry between the two German states any talk of the unity of the nation is not credible," Gysi said, in a reference to growing calls on both sides of the Berlin Wall for German reunification.

Over recent weeks demands for reunification have grown as the country's political and economic plight has deepened.

Kopietz said he did not consider Gysi's second proposal — a 50 per cent cut in East and West German forces by 1991 — was realistic.

The East German army could more quickly disband than the West Germans, because they have a higher proportion of conscripts, but that deadline is too close," he said.

East Germany's National People's Army (NVA) totals 173,000 while the West German Bundeswehr has 494,000 servicemen.

East German spies in the West have been turning themselves in after being assured they are likely to be forgiven, the deputy head of West German counter-intelligence said.

East Germany lifted a ban on singing in public of the original version of its national hymn, "Germany united fatherland," declaring the anthem written in 1949 to be part of its cultural heritage.

But the vampire legend and the series of horror films it spawned are unfamiliar to Romanians subjected to 24 years of censored television and radio by their modern-day tyrant.

"Why are you so interested in the vampire story — do you believe in it?" asked our puzzled Romanian translator as we explored the ruins.

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"Ceausescu came to inspect the site three years ago and then it was announced that work would start as soon as the 'people's palace' in Bucharest had been finished."

But Stefan, who has looked after the site for the last 22 years, no longer faces imminent redundancy.

Revolution gets Soviet backing

BUCHAREST, Jan 6, (Agencies): Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze gave Romania's new revolutionary leaders Moscow's full backing today.

Ties between the two countries did not depend on the existence of a communist government in Romania, he told a news conference after talks in Bucharest with the ruling National Salvation Front.

"The question of which parties will govern in Romania is to be decided by the people. We have always accepted the wishes of the Romanian people," Shevardnadze said.

The Soviet minister arrived in Bucharest today amid tight security for the first visit by a Kremlin leader since communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu was overthrown and executed last month.

Shevardnadze said his meeting with President Ion Iliescu and Prime Minister Petre Roman had been very friendly compared to strained relations under Ceausescu.

"We have been able to talk in an atmosphere full of human warmth," he told journalists.

In an interview with Bucharest radio yesterday, Shevardnadze said the Romanian revolution "has enormous significance for the interests of Europe and has an echo which can justifiably be considered as universal, important for the entire world."

One sensitive issue likely to be on the agenda is relations with Soviet Moldavia, consisting largely of territory annexed from Romania by Soviet dictator Josef Stalin in 1940 under a secret protocol to the Hitler-Stalin pact.

Many Moldavians espousing greater autonomy from Moscow hope the revolution will open one of Eastern Europe's most tightly closed borders and foster cultural and other exchanges, which had been severely restricted in the past.

The Kremlin already has promised aid to the new Romania, including natural gas and oil supplies. Under Ceausescu, Romania's 23 million citizens suffered through long winters with little heat or light in many homes.

In the interview, Shevardnadze underscored the Soviet Union's commitment to help.

"Now, particularly at this time, we attach great importance to strictly observing our obligations for deliveries of gas, oil, other raw materials, and in all fields," he said.

Ceausescu, ousted Dec 22 and executed with his wife Elena on Dec 25, exported vast quantities of food, especially meat, to the Soviet Union to ensure energy supplies for Moscow.

But he used most of them for his pet industrial projects, imposing rationing that forced Romanians to wear thick coats indoors in winter, and forced opera orchestras to play while wearing gloves and fur hats.

The new government has overturned the energy restrictions and many of Ceausescu's most unpopular policies, promising free travel and releasing political prisoners and others under a general amnesty for those jailed for less than five years.

The National Salvation Front also has promised to unveil a new election law by the end of January and stage free elections by April.



Shevardnadze (right) is greeted by Celac upon his arrival in Bucharest. (Reuters wirephoto)

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Shevardnadze in Bucharest

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Downplayed

Officials in Agdam near the border of Nagorno-Karabakh downplayed a report from the People's Front of Azerbaijan that Armenian extremists were responsible for the explosion of the Agdam bus station early today.

A deputy police chief in Agdam named Navzorov said a preliminary investigation indicated the explosion was caused by a nearby gas pipeline.

Interfax, a publication of Moscow radio, reported one person was killed on Thursday in ethnic fighting in the Azerbaijani town of Khanlar and Interior Ministry troops had been sent to the area.

Radio Moscow reported today that Gorbachev has not cancelled all of his January appointments with foreigners to address domestic problems, contradicting news reports that had upset world financial markets.

The report said Gorbachev still planned to meet with UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar the week of Jan 15.

Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party in Tokyo also said a former foreign minister and influential party member, Shintaro Abe, had received an invitation to meet with Gorbachev on Jan 15. (See Page 5)

Iran and the Soviet Union

have agreed to provide special help for Soviets wishing to visit Iran from Azerbaijan, where rioters tore down border fences today, The Iranian news agency Irna said.

Soviet Prime Minister Nikolai I. Ryzhkov's mother has died, Tass reported yesterday in an unusual mention of a ruling politburo member's family affairs.

Ceausescu planned to build 'People's Palace on site of Dracula's castle'

TIRGOVISTE, Romania, Jan 6, (Reuters): Power-hungry Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu, reviled by opponents as a modern-day Octavian, had plans for a place on the site of the castle built by Vlad the Impaler — the inspiration behind the Dracula myth.

"He wanted to raise the old castle to the ground and have his name engraved on the list of ancestral rulers," said castle curator Stefan, pointing to a stone plaque listing the princes who ruled the Romanian region of Wallachia from 1386 to 1714.

Ceausescu, who ruthlessly levelled ancient streets and churches in Bucharest to build the "People's Palace," planned to move his administration northwest to Tirgoviste.

There was a scheme to build an underground line linking the quiet town of 60,000 inhabitants with the capital.

By building a palace on the site of "Dracula's castle" Ceausescu, who was executed on Christmas Day, aimed to portray himself as natural heir to the 14th-century prince, regarded in Romania as a national hero.

Vlad the Impaler's brutal method of dispatching Turkish invaders, and fantastic stories of Gothic castles in Transylvania, gave 19th-century British novelist Bram Stoker the idea for his tale of Count Dracula — an evil vampire who sucked the blood of his victims, terrorised the surrounding countryside and could only be killed by driving a stake through his heart.

But the vampire legend and the series of horror films it spawned are unfamiliar to Romanians subjected to 24 years of censored television and radio by their modern-day tyrant.

"Why are you so interested in the vampire story — do you believe in it?" asked our puzzled Romanian translator as we explored the ruins.

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Khaddafi warns East Europe against Western-style democracy

TRIPOLI, Jan 6, (AP): Libyan leader Moammar Khaddafi yesterday cautioned Romania and eastern Europe against adopting western-style democracy, a move he claimed would lead to an economic crisis and war.

He also urged Jews to "counter-migrate" from Israel, pledging that Libya and other Arab countries would welcome them back and treat them as

their own nationals.

At a news conference in a concrete structure shaped like a tent and lined with colourful canvas, Khaddafi said "I would like to address an important part of the world, especially eastern Europe, and an oppressed group in this world, that is the Jewish community."

Referring to the developments in

eastern Europe, Khaddafi said "there is no place for capitalism, which is dictatorship based on exploitation of basic human rights which are completely crushed in western Europe and the United States."

"If you (eastern Europe) transfer (adopt) western European system with its multi-parties and capitalism, I warn you of unemployment and beggars, of

inflation, crises and in the end, war."

Khaddafi declared that Western Europe was next in line for political upheaval.

"Western Europe, where the regimes are dictatorial, is itself going to be submerged by popular revolution. I invite the peoples there and in the United States to launch it," he said.

"Eastern Europe must adopt the

new socialism calling for 'partners nor wage-earners,' parties destroy the causes of democracy and revolution, the future reality will be the Jamahiriya," he said expounding from theories published in his Third Universal Theory, otherwise known as his green book.

Written and published in the mid-1970s, the green book calls for a new

economic and political system to replace capitalism and communism in a Jamahiriya, or masses, in which the people represent themselves without parties or parliaments.

"The other thing is the question of Jews. Despite the fact that I am an Arab, and I know Arabs are targets of Zionism, I admit the Jews are oppressed in the world."

Speaking calmly, Khaddafi accused Europe and the United States of plotting to rid the world of Jews by placing them in "Palestine, the tomb of Jews, the mass oven for Jews."

He repeated suggestions he had made earlier for sending Jews to either Alsace-Lorraine on the border between France and Germany, or to Alaska.



Anchored at a safe distance

Spanish oil tanker 'Aragon' anchored at a safe distance from port January 4th, empties its tanks still loaded with some 210,000 tonnes of crude oil, to prevent further oil leaks. The Aragon which caused an oil slick off the Portuguese island of Madeira at the weekend, reached the Canary Islands. (Reuter wirephoto)

Egypt warns Ethiopia

Dams will affect flow of Nile

LONDON, Jan 6, (Kuna): Egypt has sent a warning to Addis Ababa after receiving a report of Israeli activities in Ethiopia which could affect the flow of the Nile, according to a report here today.

Quoting "Middle Eastern sources", the Independent newspaper said the Israelis are reported to be exploring the idea of building three dams as part of a large irrigation and agricultural development programme for Ethiopia.

Their engineers have been spotted conducting soil tests in Abay and the Lake Tana areas near the Blue Nile, the paper added.

It also quoted sources in Cairo as saying that an Ethiopian military mission arrived in Tel Aviv last week to buy 15 Israeli Kfir aircraft and other military equipment.

The same sources added that the number of Israeli

military personnel in Ethiopia has increased recently.

The sources reported that Cairo sent a message to Addis Ababa via Libya last week saying Egypt "would not tolerate" any attempt to interfere with the flow of the Nile, the daily went on.

Many saw the latest Egyptian restoration of relations with Syria as a sign to Israel that Cairo "has a wide range of interests to consider," it indicated.

Last month, the Sudanese leader Lieutenant-General Omar Hassan Al-Bashir accused Israel of setting up a military base on Ethiopian islands in the strategic Bab Al Mandab Straits.

Also the Sunday Times newspaper in London said recently that a railway and a listening station were to be built for Israel use on another Ethiopian island in the Red Sea.

Israel won't be forced to talks

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Jan 6, (AP): The United States says it is not pushing Israel to talk to the PLO but is unwilling to meet Israel's demands for rigid guarantees in advance of Middle East peace talks, according to a US government letter reported here yesterday.

The Hebrew daily Yediot Aharnot, in a front-page story, quoted from a document it said was a draft letter from US Secretary of State James A. Baker III to Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens.

It quoted Baker as stressing that US assurances should be "kept from the public eye." Baker had earlier said he would not offer secret guarantees to Israel.

Baker has been working to get Israel to accept an Egyptian invitation to open a dialogue with Palestinians as a step toward Israel's plan for elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Last November, the Israeli government accepted a five-point Baker plan to facilitate the Egyptian meeting. But it demanded US "side assurances" that the PLO will have no role and that the dialogue will be limited to Israel's elections plan.

Baker has urged that Arens and Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdel Meguid join him in preliminary talks in Washington, and Israeli officials say the Washington meeting could come next month.

According to Yediot, the Baker letter said "the goal of the United States, in the present effort, is not bringing Israel to a dialogue with the PLO."

It continued, however, that the United States was not willing to give assurances on what Palestinians would say at the meeting and that delegates in their opening statements "would be free to raise other issues and not limit themselves to elections."

"These are the assurances that we plan to provide," Yediot quoted the letter as saying. "The President and myself are convinced that these are enough to dispel Israel's worries and allow progress in the (peace) process."

The draft letter reportedly was carried to Israel by cabinet secretary Eliakim Rubinstein, who returned from talks with the US State Department shortly before Christmas.

Yediot said that in addition to Arens, the draft letter was given to Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Finance Minister Shimon Peres.

Avi Pazner, an adviser to Shamir, said of the newspaper report: "Many things there are not new, many things there are not accurate."

He added: "We are still engaged in a discussion with the United States on the question of guarantees that the PLO will not be part of the negotiating process. Until we have reached an agreement with the Americans, we would prefer not to relate to all kinds of press speculation."

Yediot said that Rubinstein, in a summary of his talks, told the ministers that "chances for a far-reaching improvement (of the draft) are slim."

He also advised the cabinet ministers that Baker wants to include two Palestinian deportees in the delegation for the Cairo meeting, despite Israel's demand that the delegates must come from the occupied lands.

Egypt has suggested that including people deported from the occupied territories would make the talks more acceptable to the PLO, which has demanded it name the Palestinian delegates.

Khaddafi to miss meet: Libyan leader Muammar Khaddafi, in a blow to Tunisian prestige, said on Friday he planned to stay away from a north African summit in Tunis on Jan 15 and 16 because of other engagements.

He told a news conference he had a meeting with an unnamed head of state at the same time.

"The summit was originally scheduled for Jan 7 and 8 and then they told us it had been decided to change the dates," he said. "I will have the visit of another head of state who will come to see me or whom I will go to see."

The summit was to have been the third gathering of the heads of state of Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia, the five members of the Arab Maghreb Union, a regional economic and political grouping set up in February last year. (Reuter)

Israeli commander visits: Israeli Army radio reported on Saturday that Jordan was hunting gunmen who Israel said fired across the border at its troops on Friday.

The radio quoted the head of the central command, Yitzhak Mordechai, as saying Jordan was taking all steps to arrest the gunmen.

It said he made the remarks during a visit to Hamat Gader near where Israeli military sources said unidentified gunmen from Jordan fired on Israeli troops twice on Friday. The Israelis returned fire, they said.

No official comment was available from Amman, but on Friday a Jordanian government spokesman told the state-run news agency Petra that Israeli troops opened fire in the Hamat Gader area twice. (Reuter)

French diplomats to return: France has decided to send diplomats back to the Afghan capital Kabul almost a year after it closed its embassy there, a French diplomatic source said on Friday.

"A decision in principle has been taken but the date has not been fixed," the source said. He described the move as "purely technical" and said it would involve a change of affairs and several other diplomats.

He said the presence of French nationals in humanitarian organisations in Afghanistan meant it was desirable to have someone there to give them diplomatic protection. (Reuter)

Rebels claim victory: The rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army claimed Friday it has scored a major victory over government troops in western Equatoria by defeating an army brigade of over 3,000 soldiers.

An SPLA radio broadcast monitored in London, said the victory climaxed six days of fighting in south Sudan. It said the government troops were dispersed Thursday near the border of Uganda and that its commander, Brig. Isiah Paul fled towards the neighbouring country.

The rebels forces are now conducting pursuit and mopping up operations, it said. (AP)

Qatari minister in Iran: Qatar's Municipal Affairs and Agriculture Minister, Sheikh Hamad Bin Jassim Bin Jabr Al Thani, left for Iran on Saturday for a three-day visit to increase co-operation in agriculture, the Qatari News Agency said. (Reuter)

Yemen unification not against neighbours: Attas

KUWAIT, Jan 6, (Kuna): Democratic Yemen's leader Haider Abu Bakr Al Attas has said the unified Yemen state was not a pact against any neighbouring country.

In an interview with the Qatari newspaper Al Arab, published here today, Attas stressed that Yemen's unity was mainly intended for the Yemeni people to help them overcome their difficulties and undertake the responsibilities of development.

"The Yemeni people had suffered from backwardness and many other difficulties and we hope that the unified state will shoulder these burdens first to realise security and stability within the Yemen and second to be a

cornerstone for peace and stability in the region," Attas was quoted as saying.

Leaders of the two countries last November signed an agreement envisaging a unified state within a year time.

Attas underlined that endorsement of the constitution of the unified state was the current preoccupation of Yemeni leaders in both countries, indicating that the new state would tackle the inherited problems in a gradual and quiet manner to enable the people dedicate their efforts for development.

Asked on breathtaking changes in Eastern Europe with regard to renunciation of the one-party system, leader of democratic

Yemen maintained that "it is the era of masses and that means broadening of democratic participation."

However, the Yemeni leader told the paper that any political force or figure that had violated the constitution or harmed the dignity of the Yemeni people through their deeds would not have a room in the political life.

Asked on political prisoners in his country, Attas replied "we have no prisoners as such. There are some convicted persons whose cases might have political background with a slant of criminal nature and that all of them had been tried under the country's constitution and laws."



Protest march
Americans, Israelis and Palestinians demonstrate outside the American consulate in East Jerusalem, accusing Israel of violating Palestinian human rights and calling for an end to American support of the Jewish state. (Reuter wirephoto)

Qaddoumi invited to China: Palestine Liberation Organisation political department head Farouq Qaddoumi received an official invitation from Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen to visit China.

The invitation was relayed to Qaddoumi by Chinese ambassador to Tunisia in Tunis last night.

The Chinese diplomat following the meeting said that he asserted to Qaddoumi his country's firm and supportive stance towards Palestinian people's struggle in all fields and reviewed latest developments in China. (Kuna)

UAE press comments: The United Arab Emirates newspaper Al Wahda today commented editorially on the new Iraqi initiative to achieve peace with Iran.

It said in part: "It is unacceptable that the state of no war no peace in the Gulf continues at a time when we enter the 1990s amid new developments throughout the world."

"Iraq yesterday made a fresh initiative to push forward peace efforts in the Gulf if Iran responded positively. The common interests requires such a response with any hesitation. It is time, though late, that the two countries move out of the no war, no peace state, which is adversely affecting the whole region."

"Any fresh outbreak of hostilities will be intolerable this time in the light of international developments. This should prompt immediate efforts to end the status quo and establish co-operation and understanding in the region." (Kuna)

Civil war flares up again in Lebanon

Hirawi arrives in Beirut

BEIRUT, Jan 6, (Agencies): Christian army units and Syrian-backed Muslim militiamen clashed in artillery and tank fire duels across Beirut's dividing Green Line today, killing two civilians in the first serious civil war flare-up in three months.

The clashes coincided with the arrival of President Elias Hrawi in Syrian-policed West Beirut to set up headquarters in the city's Muslim sector where his predecessor was killed in a car bomb explosion in November.

Police said an artillery shell crashed in the Sinn El Fil residential

Thunderous shell blasts and staccato bursts of gunfire echoed across the Muslim and Christian sectors. Both sides accused each other of shooting first.

A police spokesman said the clash was "the gravest violation"

of a ceasefire called by the Arab League on Sept 22 to halt six months of savage artillery duels between Christian leader Gen. Michel Aoun's troops and the Syrian army.

At least 929 people were killed and 2,744 wounded in that confrontation.

Fighting also raged into a third week in south Lebanon between militiamen of the Iranian-backed Hezbollah, and the pro-Syrian mainstream Amal. But police said no new casualties were reported in the inter-Shiite battles.

At least 77 people have been killed and 275 wounded since

area, on the Christian side of the three-mile (five-kilometre) demarcation line, killing two men. Two other people were wounded in the exchanges that engulfed the nearby Sodeco and Ras El Nabaa districts.

The exchanges broke out in the early morning, eased at noon and picked up anew in the afternoon, forcing police and army units to close down the mid-city museum crossing, the only gateway linking the two halves of the divided capital.

Lebanon have already recognised Hrawi's "national reconciliation" government formed in November to oversee implementation of a Christian-Muslim peace plan to end 14 years of civil war.

The Vatican, however, had not committed itself to supporting Hrawi, an issue that totally isolates Aoun who has rejected Hrawi's election and the peace plan Parliament approved in October.

Aoun, a Maronite Catholic, called on supporters to stage a "human chain of demonstrations"

from 1 pm (1100 GMT) along the 25-mile (40 kilometre) route from the presidential palace in Baabda to Puntre's residence in Harissa to protest the Vatican's decision.

Aoun commands 20,000 mainly Christian troops who

control the Christian enclave that comprises East Beirut and the hinterland to the north and northeast.

The PLO sent in more commandos today to separate warring Shiites in south Lebanon, ending fighting in one sector of the front, security sources said.

They said some 200 fighters loyal to PLO leader Yasser Arafat deployed between gunnery of the pro-Iranian Hezbollah and the Syrian-backed Amal militia in the Iqlim Al Tufah area east of Sidon.

The PLO now has 500 heavily armed commandos deployed along a three-km (two-miles) battle zone between the villages of Kfar Hata and Kfar Mulkah, the sources said.

Clashes continued in parts of Iqlim Al Tufah where the PLO had not deployed, they said.

Attack on Polish ship in Red Sea

NICOSIA, Jan 6, (Reuter): A second Polish ship has been attacked in the Red Sea off Ethiopia and 30 crew of another are missing after their vessel was apparently hit by rockets and set on fire, shipping sources said today.

The motor vessel Adam Asnyk reported it was fired on from shore yesterday after finding the 9,146-tonne cargo ship Boleslaw Krzywousty stranded and ablaze 50 miles from Massawa on the Eritrean coast, Lloyds Shipping Intelligence said.

A shipping source in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, said the Boleslaw Krzywousty's captain had radioed that his ship had been attacked and run aground. An unidentified vessel was trying to rescue the crew.

"The Boleslaw Krzywousty is on fire and aground after being attacked by an unknown ship," the source said.

Lloyds said the Adam Asnyk reported that all 30 crew and two lifeboats were missing from the Boleslaw Krzywousty, which the Polish Foreign Ministry said was attacked on Thursday by an unidentified armed vessel.

The 9,362-tonne Adam Asnyk said it approached within 1.5 miles of the stranded Polish ship but withdrew when it came under fire from the shore. It did not identify the attackers.

Eritrean rebels seeking independence clash frequently with Ethiopian government troops in the region. Last September, the Eritrean People's Liberation Front said its fighters had destroyed three government warships in Massawa naval base in a series of raids.

The rebels said they used speedboats to carry out their attacks.

The Boleslaw Krzywousty was heading for Massawa from Sudan when it was attacked last Wednesday. Gulf shipping sources said the captain put out a mayday message saying he needed help.

The Polish embassy in Addis Ababa said on Thursday the Boleslaw Krzywousty was attacked by an armed vessel in Ethiopian waters off Eritrea but that none of the crew was hurt. It gave no other details.

Lloyd's gave the Boleslaw Krzywousty's position as about 50 miles north of Massawa.

Poland said that the Boleslaw Krzywousty was attacked in Ethiopian territorial waters 300 miles north of Massawa.



Pablo Puente (centre) reviews, with a senior Lebanese officer, troops in West Beirut before he presented his credentials to Hrawi. (Reuter wirephoto)

Iranian prisoner in alarming condition

PARIS, Jan 6, (AP): Anis Naccache, a prisoner who claims France promised to release him during the 1988 negotiations that won freedom for its hostages from Lebanon, is in alarming condition after almost four months on hunger strike, his lawyer said yesterday.

Jacques Verges said on French television after a visit to his client in France's prison outside Paris that Naccache has lost 59 pounds (27 kilograms) and was being fed intravenously, "thus it's an alarming state."

Naccache, a pro-Iranian Lebanese, is serving a life sentence for the attempted assassination of Shapur Bakhtiar in 1980, apparently on orders from Iran. Bakhtiar survived.

Iran has called publicly for Naccache's release, while denying it was part of France's deal to win the release of its hostages from their pro-Iranian Lebanese captors. France says there was a deal with Iran, but that it did not include Naccache.

President Mitterrand, speaking with reporters yesterday evening, said he might consider freeing Naccache, but not under the pressure of a hunger strike.

"He cannot hope to free himself with a hunger strike," Mitterrand said. "If Anis Naccache decides to die in prison and we do not have the means to stop him, this will be his responsibility."

Verges said Naccache was "at the mercy of the slightest incident, that is to say he has no more immune defences. If tomorrow someone goes into his cell and sneezes in his nose, he could very well die from it."

Interactive video-disc

WASHINGTON, Jan 6, (Kuna): Thanks to remarkable new "cutting edge" technology, students, journalists, diplomats and others concerned with the Mideast: now can enjoy instantaneous, "interactive" access to information about it.

According to David Bohrmann, ABC News "Nightline" TV producer and video guru, the data is packaged in a way not thought feasible until about six weeks ago.

The data is broad-based and seemingly "balanced," even allowing people to learn about Dir Yassin and other Israeli atrocities seldom reported in the US.

Bohrmann, attending the press opening of the "Hands on America," video museum here, discussed with Kuna the genesis and uses of "In the Holy Land," the Mideast information system on display there.

He explained that the inspiration for the "interactive video disc" (a term Bohrmann prefers to "programme" or other standard computer-speak) was the marathon ABC "Nightline" programme hosted from Jerusalem about a year ago by TV journalist Ted Koppel.

That watershed production boasted first-ever live debates between Israelis and PLO officials, as well as discussions among not-so "lesser lights"—notably the children—on both sides of the Middle East divide.

Rare historical film footage and scenes of Israeli repression were included as well.

Since the special was to be aired nightly over a week's span, mounting it required prodigious amounts of research. Virtually "mountains" of information was collected for the series, much of it unused, the TV producer told Kuna.

"Since it was relatively fresh, we decided that we had all that material available to us and we should turn that into one of our very first interactive video products."

"Another pioneering effort was ABC's coverage of the 1988 presidential campaign."

In the months since the original Koppel broadcast, a new video branch of the network ("ABC News Interactive") has sprung up. It has hired—or borrowed from other network offices—researchers to apply the final gloss to "Holy Land" and to start future projects.

Bohrmann said his crew now numbers about 20, estimating about four months are needed for them to complete each "deep research-educational product" as the Mideast one.

On account of its pristine newness, the Mideast "product" so far has seen very limited distribution, although Bohrmann claims several hundred have been ordered. And while most are destined for schools, it's hard to imagine at least some not making their way to various government agencies.

Public body for industries

Draft law approved

THE Civil Service Council recently approved a draft law to establish a public administration body to run the industrial areas in the country, Abdullah Al Hamad, undersecretary of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry said.

The state gives special concern to the industrial sector by issuing laws to encourage and protect this sector as well as subsidize the local industries to encourage Kuwaiti businessmen to invest in the national industries.

The state has exempted industrial installations from paying customs for their imports on machines and raw materials as well as spare parts and has also exempted paying other kinds of taxes.

The ministry has issued several decisions to grant customs protection to 58 local industrial factories which translate into benefitting 25 per cent of total industrial installations in Kuwait. The ministry has also prohibited the import of 52 foreign industrial products that are produced locally, Hamad said.

He added that the ministry still abides by the law of commercial licences that does not grant commercial licences to non-Kuwaitis. However, the law does not prevent them from getting into partnership agreements with Kuwaitis.

Commenting on conditions to grant commercial licences to shops or companies, the official said that the applicant should be a Kuwaiti national over 21 years of age, possess adequate capital and operate it in his own favour. The applicant should also not be a public servant.

The Ministry of Commerce is now revising its different laws and has begun with the law of companies and law of insurance which has taken a long time before being amended, the official said.

He added that the Fatwa and

Legislation Department approved the new law of insurance and it will be submitted to the Council of Ministers shortly. The department will also study the new law of companies within the next few days.

The ministry will also revise the laws of commercial agencies and industrial agencies in the coming future. There are about 15 different laws at the ministry and the ministry is preparing a draft law for industry, Hamad said.

Commenting on the economic activities after Iraq-Iran ceasefire, he said that one of the significant marks of this situation is the stability and return of security to the shipping lines. This led to the increase of ships coming to the Gulf area. It also reduced insurance costs on ships and imports. All these are considered indications for active economic movement in Kuwait and the area in general, he added.

He pointed out that Ministry of Commerce protects consumers from the commercial cheating and fraud. The inspectors of the Consumers Protection Department of the ministry make surprise inspections at the shops.

The ministry protects consumers from cheating by co-operating with the Customs Authority to seize the fake brands. We re-export these goods to the country of origin.

Commenting on industrial co-operation between Kuwait and GCC states, he said that GCC Unified Economic Agreement was signed by GCC states in 1983 to facilitate the flow of commercial products among them. They reached many important points to achieve their goals and apply the agreement specially by putting a unified strategy for industrial development. The GCC states agreed to give priority in imports to the national products that are produced by the member states.

Kuwaiti women in police likely

THE possibility of appointing Kuwaiti women as investigators at police stations has not been ruled out, according to Brigadier Yacoub Al Mubiani, director of General Investigations Administration at the Ministry of Interior.

The official disclosed that presently the Ministry of Interior had 92 women investigators working with men in undertaking various investigative work at the general prosecution and technical offices of the administration.

He added that 51 of these women work in his administration, 9 in hospitals, 4 in the administration investigation office, 21 at governorates and others at the general prosecution and technical offices of the administration.

All work on a single morning shift, but he hoped that several could be assigned to work in the second shift — 1.30 to 9.30 pm.

The intention to employ women cadres at police stations is to facilitate those cases where women are to be investigated and where men are hindered from performing their official duties effectively, the official said.

■ The court sentenced a man to five years' imprisonment with hard labour to be followed by deportation for attempted rape.

The court was told that the accused followed a maid who had just finished washing her employer's car and forcibly kissed her and sprawled her on the floor.

However, neighbours who had witnessed the incident rushed to the rescue of the maid and averted her being raped.

Based on the testimony of the neighbours, the maid and other evidence, the court passed judgement.

■ The Criminal Court sentenced two men to seven and five years rigorous imprisonment to be followed by deportation for committing adultery with three Sri Lankan maids.

The court was told that the three maids had absconded from the office that employs them and were taken by a man identified as Khalid to an isolated farm to sleep.

The guard of the farm (first defendant) phoned his friend (second defendant) and told him of the presence of the maids. The two convinced the three maids to have sex with them.

The first accused who had sexual relations with one of the maids who was under the age of 15 was sentenced to seven years and the other defendant to five years in jail.

The incident was reported when Khalid came the next day to take the three maids to a Sri Lankan maid to find them jobs. However, the maid notified her employer who in turn delivered them to the original employing office. The maids narrated the incident of the previous night and accused were apprehended.

■ Two Saudi citizens identified as Khalifa K and Safat K have been arrested by detectives of Al Ahmadi for smuggling and trading in alcohol, the public relations department at the Ministry of Interior said.

According to sources, the two accused were arrested at Al Mahabouh area and were found in possession of 18 bottles of whisky.

The contraband and the accused have been referred to authorities for further investigation.

■ The Court of Higher Appeal will review the case of a criminal sentenced to 17 years rigorous imprisonment to be followed by deportation for resisting arrest by shooting at arresting officers.

Sheikh Zayed

UAE President Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan will patronise the 10th session of the Council of Ministers to be opened in Abu Dhabi next Tuesday.

Kamel Al Saleh, secretary-general of the follow-up bureau of social affairs and labour in the Arab Gulf states said that the three-day council will discuss several joint projects related to labour and social issues.

Public Authority to notify people of expiry date

Renewed Civil IDs may be mailed

FAISAL Al Shaiji, director general of the Public Authority for Civil Information, said that the authority continually strives to improve its services and computerise its functions to facilitate procedure and processing of transactions.

He told a local daily that the authority would notify people of the date of expiry of their ID-cards, stressing the need to register the new born babies into the civil information system.

He said that a study is being proposed on the feasibility of mailing renewed ID-cards to clients owning private post boxes to further facilitate procedures, alleviate pressure on people, besides reducing crowds at the authority's different offices.

He pointed out that based on the results of the proposed study, the authority would apply the project on a small-scale experimental basis which would be implemented nation-wide if the experiment was successful.

The authority is planning to set up a central office to replace that at the ministries complex, which would be allocated for distribution of processed ID-cards. The proposed two offices in Jahra and Ahmadi had been approved and consequently they would be constructed and operational within two and a half years.

More than 24,000 cards for Kuwaitis have already been replaced, besides other cards currently under process. ID-cards

for expatriates are valid for the duration of the work permit or residence visa, Shaiji explained.

He said that the authority actively co-operated with various government ministries, and provided massive statistical reports on a biannual basis. Fields of co-operation also included the use of computerised information systems to simplify and facilitate the processing of certain transactions.

Steps have been taken with the National Housing Authority and the Zakat House where on presentation of ID-cards, the relevant agency would be provided with all needed information through the authority

instead of asking clients to provide the needed documents.

He said that authority's main problem is the fact that many people still show a lack of acquaintance with the law and consequently were committing frequent violations.

He added that other people would wait until the eleventh hour and then come to process a different number of time-taking transactions. Others choose the time of the day, say from 9.30 to 11 to come and follow up their transactions with the authority which would also increase crowds, and other would fail to claim their renewed ID-cards for periods sometimes exceeding six months, Shaiji said.



KAC-Lufthansa accord

Kuwait Airways Corporation will operate flights to Munich and Frankfurt, West Germany, from April 1st according to a new agreement signed last week in Kuwait between the Kuwaiti and West German civil aviation authorities. A new understanding agreement was also signed between the two sides after two-day talks which covered bilateral co-

operation between the Kuwaiti national carrier, KAC and the West German carrier, Lufthansa. The Kuwaiti side to the talks was headed by Director-General of the Directorate of Civil Aviation, Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Abdullah Al Sabah. The two sides also agreed to increase the number of flights between the two countries.

Delay in city roads project

DEPUTY chief engineer of roads at the Ministry of Public Works (MPW) Engineer Jassem Al Issa has explained the reasons behind the delay in the Kuwait City roads expansion project currently under way.

Interviewed by a local daily, Issa stated that with the large expansion of construction projects and buildings which exceeded all expectations during the middle of the 1980's decade, accompanied with a vast increase in sewage water reaching Ardeya waste treatment station, the ministry has appointed an international consultation company and a local company to design development and expansion works to increase the capacity of the Ardeya station.

The plan includes a comprehensive system to control the foul odours by introducing modern technology.

Design works have been completed and the project was put into a tender. He pointed out that project works are expected to begin during the first half of this year.

He indicated that delay of roads projects is mainly

caused by linkage and diversity of ground services which interfere with roads improvement works. Additionally, moving inside Kuwait City is highly difficult due to the increase in traffic density and the non-availability of the space for work.

The main underground services lines also cause delay to the work and may affect other road works plans. He indicated that Kuwait City's complicated location requires a slow pace of works. He added that most project conducted in the city are carried out in stages to avoid traffic disturbances and pedestrian problems.

Regarding traffic lights, Issa stated that the MPW sees that improvements on some of Kuwait City roads currently being under completion is a part of a comprehensive plan of roads in the city area.

Kuwait Municipality has made an initial planning with the co-operation of an international consultations company aimed at improving city roads services and to lighten traffic jams in addition to preventing accidents and modernisation of different services, the official said.

Motorists prefer round-about traffic

A NUMBER of citizens have criticized the project of the General Traffic Department (GTC) calling for removing all roundabouts and replacing them with traffic lights and described the project as a total failure.

They stressed that roundabouts effectively facilitate the smooth flow of traffic during peak hours and indicated that jams and a high number of traffic accidents are mainly caused by inadequate programming of traffic signals.

They stated that the GTC should transform traffic lights into circles and called upon officials to adapt new and scientific methods to redress.

Ahmad Naser stated that unfortunately the GTC has implemented an unfeasible project resulting traffic jams everywhere.

He stated that it is not possible to implement the project on all the circles because some of them play an effective role in creating smoother traffic flow.

He called upon officials to reconsider this project which he believes will not achieve its purpose.

Ali Al Najjar said that the large number of unreviewed projects are the real cause behind the recent traffic problem in the country. He stressed that traffic projects require time and accuracy in addition to studies and statistics.

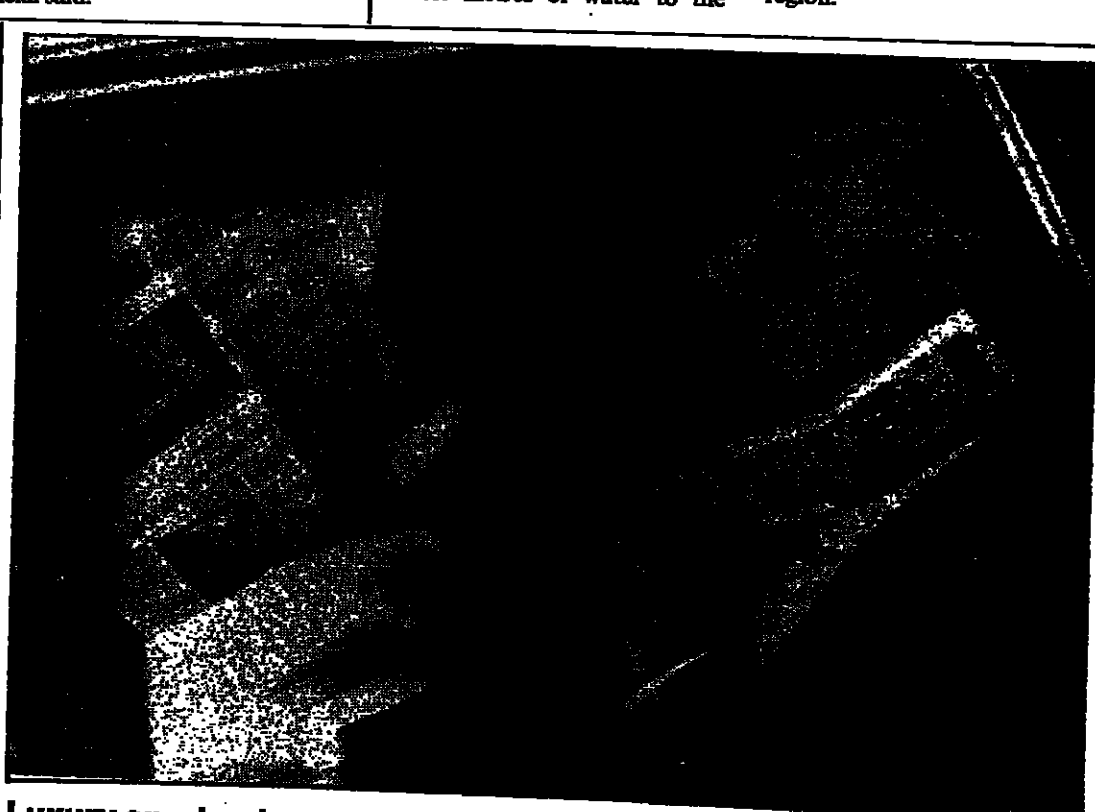
He indicated that more studies should be conducted on the replacement of circles in order to reach better decisions.

Mohammed Al Hajeri stated that traffic jams are mainly caused by traffic lights. He said some streets are not organised that leads to many accidents and traffic jams. Drivers have to wait for a pretty long time for the green signal, on the other hand, traffic flow at roundabouts is much smoother and flexible.

Jaber meetings

THE Information Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al Hamad Al Sabah received at his office the Iranian ambassador to Kuwait Hussein Sadaki.

Sheikh Jaber also received the chief of the Kuwaiti Journalist Association Ahmad Yousef Behbehani.



Luxury on wheels

It all started with renting exercise bikes to guestrooms and to take the service a step further a mobile telephone has now been installed in Kuwait International Hotel's Limousine Service — nicknamed 'Luxury on wheels'. With this facility the guest can now be reached any time for any important calls or

messages. However, more important is the fact that guest has access to the outside world and can conduct business even while commuting. The idea has been extremely successful and the hotel is now thinking of installing a mobile telephone in all its buses and coaches that service guests.

Ancient fossils unearthed in Oman challenge prevailing animal origin theories

MUSCAT, Jan 6, (AP): Ancient fossils unearthed in southern Oman challenge prevailing animal origin theories that the elephant and monkey originated in Africa, scientists in the Sultanate announced today.

Paleomagnetic and biostratigraphic arguments indicated that the fossils were older than those of the Oatmani formation in Fayoum, near the Egyptian capital Cairo, Oman government geologist Saher Al Sulaimi told a press conference.

They provided important evidence for scientists attempting to document the origins and movements of extinct animals in Africa and Asia, he said.

"This suggests that there was no Red

Sea between Africa and Arabia enabling animals to move freely between both," Sulaimani said.

The fossils were discovered by a team of Omani and French geologists surveying the remote province of Dhofar in southern Oman.

The finds include animal teeth found in gravel thought to have been laid down in the early part of the oligocene period of the tertiary era.

Paris-based paleontologists have dated the teeth to 35.8 million years, Sulaimani said.

"It has been geologically proven that the Dhofar fossils are the oldest in the world, pre-dating the 35 million-year-old

finds in Fayoum, until now generally considered to be the oldest," he said. "The find challenges theories that mammals such as monkeys and elephants originated from Africa."

Sulaimani was a member of the team which stumbled upon the fossils. With him was Prof. Herbert Thomas of the French Institute of Paleontology, who began digging in two localities in Dhofar in 1987, after sightings of animal remains by mineral company workers.

"Prof. Thomas' finds were so exciting that he returned in 1988 and again last year," said Michael Gallagher, curator of the Omani Natural History Museum,

where the fossils will be displayed.

"These are spectacular discoveries, providing unexpected links with pre-history of the greatest world interest," he said. "Some of the teeth discovered belong to sharks and other fish and also ancient forms of crocodiles, turtles and mammals."

Gallagher said most exciting was the finding of teeth which belong to three extinct forms of primates, one of them previously unknown. The two others were then thought to be the world's oldest.

"In the same two contemporaneous sites at Taga and Thuythini in Dhofar,

Prof. Thomas also discovered four teeth of a proboscidean, or early form of elephant previously unknown to science, as well as teeth of a large rhinoceros-like creature with twin horns and the teeth of many small rodents and prosimians ancestral to the lemur-like tarsier of today."

In the oligocene period of the tertiary era, mammals evolved rapidly, producing such specialised types as the lemur, plesiadapis, ancestor of the primate, the five-toed phenacodus and the horned titanothereum.

Birds also evolved during this period, including the giant flightless dromyornis. Fish, reptiles and invertebrates at that time began to resemble those of today.

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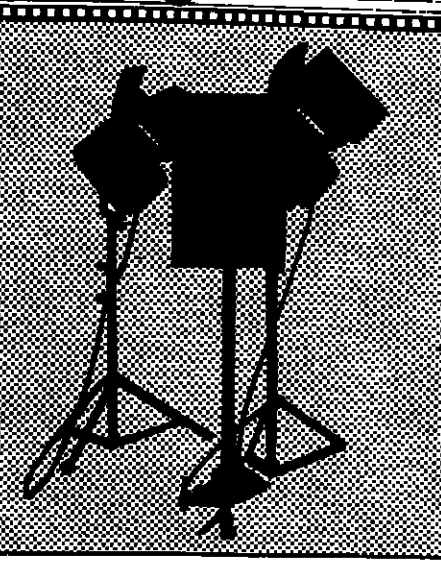
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Symbolic charges on health, medical services likely

15 per cent increase in health budget expected: Dr Naqeeb

THE Ministry of Public Health (MPH) is currently intending to levy symbolic charges on its health and medical services, Dr Naeef Al Naqeeb, undersecretary at the ministry said.

The premise for levying such symbolic medical charges has been an issue of serious debate at the highest level and the general consensus is that it is not only felt advisable, but has now become imperative. Nevertheless, such charges will be formulated with the concept of assuring that the state's present medical services are appreciated.

The officials elucidating said that these nominal charges are not intended to be construed as a form of

revenue, but to redress the present misuse of the existing free medical facilities made available. He further said that these charges will contribute in no small measure towards reducing the pressure on clinics and health centres by eliminating those persons who call for medical services without any genuine need.

He told a local daily that the ministry's next budget is expected to increase by 10 to 15 per cent over the previous year — though the existing organisational structure will remain unchanged.

"The ministry's construction projects during the next five-year-plan are estimated to be KD125 million," Naqeeb said.

The following construction projects are to be tendered for: Fallaka Health Centre, Psychiatric Diseases Hospital, learning ward for students of medicine at the Maternity Hospital, Sabah and Addan dental centres.

Cost of construction for 90/91 amounted to KD65 million, the official said and added that the current and next year will witness a number of construction projects such as: expansion of the Amiri, Farwaniya, Jahra, Addan and psychiatric diseases, physiotherapy, infectious diseases and Mubarak Al Kabeer hospitals.

He added that these will include construction of three health centres in Firdous, Bayan, Abu Halifa, and a

polyclinic with specialised medical units in Hawalli. Further plans are to construct specialised heart diseases centre, the Kuwait Institute for Medical Specialisations, the Kuwait Central Laboratory and the Computer Information Centre.

Naqeeb denied any current intention on his part to quit his office at the ministry, commenting that he will continue to shoulder his responsibilities as long as he is capable.

Banning senior officials from taking up jobs in the private sector, though an old decision, was enforced recently, the official said. He disclosed that the ban is currently violated by only four officials who have been given the

choice of giving up their private work or quitting their official offices. Exceptions to the law can only be made by the relevant minister, Naqeeb said.

The official criticised the opinion that doctors at private clinics are commercially-oriented and that their private interests take priority over their original humanitarian missions. He said that the ministry has enforced strict constraints to prevent any exploitation of a doctor-patient relationship.

He went on to explain that doctors too are human and occasionally a mistake is committed, however, this should not be adversely reflected on the entire professional community.

Naqeeb said that the ministry's decision to allow Kuwaiti medical specialists to work within the private sector is intended to encourage the private sector to develop its capabilities and enable doctors at the ministry to improve their standards of living.

He denied any attack by him on private doctors and pointed out that he only cited practices not in keeping with the ministry such as use of excessive medications and unjustifiable use of medical equipment.

He clarified that the ministry will not hesitate to reconsider the existing medical job description should the need arise and added that the develop-

ment of medical services is closely linked with the health insurance system. The project is pending endorsement by government officials, Naqeeb explained.

He commended the five-day working week, pointing out that this will facilitate the improvement of health services in the country.

Naqeeb ruled out the possibility of opening certain health centres on a 24-hour basis to alleviate pressure from emergency wards at hospitals. Most emergency cases are rushed to hospitals after midnight, the official said and added that the shift-system may be enforced at the centres to ease off pressure.

Trip to Cairo amid major developments

Al Kandari hails Egypt role

KUWAITI Ambassador to Egypt Abdel Razzaq Al Kandari was quoted yesterday as saying that the upcoming visit to Cairo by his Highness the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah is very crucial and comes in the middle of major developments in the region and at international levels.

The visit, which starts Monday, comes at a time of positive Arab and international transitions — displayed in Eastern European reforms and reflected by Arab reconciliations — thus showing optimism for a more cohesive Arab unity. Al Kandari told a local newspaper.

Al Kandari added Sheikh Saad's first visit in 1990 was chosen to Egypt in appreciation for Cairo's active role in the Arab world and for the strong ties connecting Egypt and Kuwait.

The ambassador praised Egyptian-Kuwaiti ties by saying "the relations between the two countries are mature and based on common interests."

"The visit of His Highness the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah to Egypt is a landmark event in the number of protocol co-operations and agreements between the two countries," added the ambassador.

Al Kandari pointed to the most important agreements and protocols agreed upon such as the signing of an executive programme for the implementation of a cultural agreement consisting of co-operation in the scientific and cultural fields, an agreement encouraging trade exchange between the two countries and a media cooperation protocol signed before the

Amir's visit in 1989.

On Kuwait's national stance towards the current changes in the world, Al Kandari described the changes as quick and shocking and said they should be examined by the Arabs in order to benefit from them and lessen the negative aspects that can reflect on them.

He then affirmed that there could be negative aspects resulting from the changes which would also bring political or economic systems that are different from the systems recognised in the 20th century.

"We as Arabs should ask ourselves what will our stance be towards these blocs and what are we going to do to face the threats that might be imposed by them," said Al Kandari.

The ambassador then stressed on the important timing of the Crown Prince's visit coming amid the current international reforms.

"Since Kuwait and Egypt have similar stance it will be a good opportunity for Sheikh Saad to meet with President Mubarak and Dr Atef Sedki as well as Egyptian officials to discuss the issue in precise and clarified manner in order to reach other Arab parties by our bilateral meetings," asserted Al Kandari.

On relations between the Arab Co-operation Council (ACC) and the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC), Al Kandari said "Kuwait believes that any Arab unity whether it is between two or three or four countries as a base for joint and united Arab action which I think facilitates the co-operation between the Arab groups through these councils that speak through a unified forum."

Al Kandari said Sheikh Saad's visit will reflect the current activities in the GCC especially after the Oman summit whereupon the Crown Prince will brief President Mubarak on the GCC achievements and President Mubarak will familiarise him on the ACC.

On international plots to isolate Arabs from Africans and Kuwait's role towards African countries, Al Kandari commented, "Kuwait does all it can to support African countries and the Kuwaiti Fund for Development plays a major role in financing projects in the African countries."

There is no doubt that our enemies were trying to separate Africans from Arabs and it is wrong for us to be asked to do more than we can towards this. That is why we are co-operating with Egypt and exchanging opinions in order to support Egypt's role in the area.

The Arab-African issue will also be discussed by Sheikh Saad and President Mubarak since Mubarak is the current president of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) and in view of Kuwait's humanitarian role in Africa, the ambassador said.

"The atmosphere of Arab reconciliation reflects on the strength of our negotiations, the success of our case and the dialogue which we hold with the countries that share common interests as well as hoping that our enemies lose their hope in separating us," Al Kandari continued.

He told a joint Egyptian-Kuwaiti project was being studied by the Kuwaiti fund for the financing and expansion of an artificial silk factory in Egypt.



The Amir of Qatar Sheikh Khalifa Bin Hamad Al Thani (left) with Algerian President Chadli Benjedid at official dinner where Sheikh Khalifa was awarded the Algerian national Order of Merit. (Reuters wirephoto)

Khalifa meets Arab envoys

ALGIERS, Jan 6 (Kuna): The Amir of Qatar Sheikh Khalifa Bin Hamad Al Thani conferred with President Chadli Benjedid here this afternoon, starting the second round of talks during his visit which started last Thursday.

Both Arab leaders met privately before members of both delegations joined them.

It was officially announced that the talks covered the situation in the Arab Gulf region and efforts exerted to implement Security Council resolution 598.

The Qatari and Algerian officials also discussed the new developments of the Palestinian uprising and the efforts by the Arab three-man committee to find a solution for the Lebanese crisis.

Sheikh Khalifa accompanied by an official delegation including Minister of Trade and Economy Sheikh Jassim Al Thani, Minister of Culture and Information Sheikh Hamad Ben Suhaim Al Thani, Foreign Minister Abdulla Al Ateyah and Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Dr. Ghanim Al Kawari, arrived here Thursday from Egypt on a four-day visit.

The Algerian press agency said the visit, which is held at the invitation of Benjedid, comes in the framework of enhancing consultations and co-ordinating stances of both Qatar and Algeria.

In the afternoon, the Amir of Qatar met with Arab ambassadors in Algeria at his residence to exchange views on current international issues.

Centre to serve campers

Special police patrols for safety

AHMADI Governorate, in co-operation with different government and private establishments and societies is establishing a new centre intended to serve campers at Nuwaiseeb Road, Brigadier Fuad Musaed Al Saleh, director of security at the governorate said.

He added that governorate, last year, had established Al Waha Centre at Wafra Road for identical purposes and is equipped with all public services such as: a fire station, police station and several shops catering to campers needs at co-operative prices.

The public are permitted to park their tents on an area measuring 650 square kilometres at Ahmadi Governorate. However, the official cautioned campers against placing their tents in close proximity to oil installations, oil and gas pipes and any military installations.

Police squads of the Ahmadi Governorate will patrol the camps round the clock to ensure that all laws are being implemented and will particularly ensure that all traffic regulations are being followed, the official said and called on firemen, policemen and the municipality to extend every co-operation to campers.

Meanwhile, Col Ahmad Ismael, director of security at Jahra Governorate said that during campaign periods, the Ministry of Interior increases the number of patrols at the camps besides military patrols to ensure the safety and well-being of campers. He called on campers to be particularly careful to extinguish all camp fires before retiring and to prohibit children from driving any motorised vehicles.

Col Sadeq Al Aslawi, director of the technical department at the General Traffic Administration (GTA) said that the department plans a project of

central control for about 200 traffic signals between Kuwait City and the Sixth Ring Road.

He added that these signals will be connected with the control room by television screens which will indicate areas of traffic jams and accidents. Additionally, cameras will be fixed at some strategic traffic signals to apprehend drivers who cross the red signal.

He disclosed that the department had conducted experiments with these cameras at some signals to determine the effect of heat and humidity. The results have been positive, he said.

These cameras have now been removed as they were installed only for feasibility purposes, but will be reinstalled once the relative tender has been awarded, Aslawi said.

He disclosed that the Ministry of Public Works is executing road projects that lead to Kuwait City and to Murgab area, along with the completion of the Istiklal Road to be connected with the First Ring Road, completion of the Fahahel and Ghazali roads.

Col Aslawi praised the co-operation between his department, the municipality and the Ministry of Public Works which supervises the road projects.

● A teenage boy was severely attacked by a number of youths at the Mansouriya Area on New Year's night, a local daily reported.

According to the report, the boy allegedly had been harassing a girl on telephone. The girl reported the matter to her brother who advised her to fix an appointment with the caller for New Year's night.

At the appointed time the boy arrived, but was surprised to see a number of youths surrounding him who beat him severely. The youth was only rescued through the intervention of some passers-by.

Review penalties

Call to curb drug menace

THE recent case of the drug addict who tried to trade his wife for a piece of drug still grips the minds of the Kuwaiti community, a local daily reported.

Dr Ali Al Damkhi, commenting on the case said that addiction constitutes the lowest level of depravity with the addict having no qualms about sacrificing the honour and dignity of his near and dear ones in his quest to satisfy his craving for drugs.

Meanwhile, Dr Abdullah Al Liqawi from the Sociology Department at Kuwait University, called on the information media to heighten its role in undertaking awareness campaigns to highlight this deadly "drug menace" and added that religious institutions have a

major role to play in this connection.

He called for reviewing penalties stipulated in the present law to deter drug trafficking and addiction and recommended the use of the latest technology at border centres to prevent the smuggling of contraband.

Ministry of Justice drug-related crime figures indicated that 55 Kuwaitis were convicted in 1988, in addition to three women. Another 253 men were convicted for consuming alcohol, including five women and 67 men and women were convicted of selling it. However, he said the most serious offence was that of 78 Kuwaitis, convicted of trafficking in drugs.

Five-day working week in Bahrain

By Yakub Razaque
Arab Times correspondent

MANAMA, Jan 6: All government employees in Bahrain will have a five-day working week starting next month according to an announcement by the government following a cabinet meeting recently.

Effective from Feb 1, all civil servants and employees in the government sector will have Thursday and Friday off, while office hours will be from 7 am to 2.15 pm from the present schedule of 7 am - 1 pm during the working days. The new system has come under the directive of the Prime Minister Sheikh Khalifa Bin Salman Al Khalifa and the Civil Service Bureau.

Introduction

The introduction of the five-day system is said by official sources to have been adopted on a major study based on a careful scrutiny on a similar system already in practice in Oman and Saudi Arabia. The study conducted by the United Nations Industrial Development (Unido) proved that productivity and efficiency actually improved with the increase on working time on each working day without affecting the administrative system.

The idea of the new working week for government employees in various ministries and state institutions on the island was first moved few months back. The system was initially adopted by some ministries sometimes back as an experiment and was stated to prove quite successful.

Output

According to the authorities the five-day working week for state employees has been devised with the aim of facilitating good work output with a convenient schedule.

The new system is expected to benefit both the state and employees. The government will save considerable funds in terms of electricity cost, overtime pay and transportation charges. The workers by having two off days should avail themselves of more time at hand to cope with both leisure and personal care with the extra day off. The new system is expected to provide a positive effect by sustaining productivity and efficiency among the workers.

Similar system has been already adopted by a number of the country's major public sector enterprises. The move is widely expected to be welcomed by the business community.

BC times sea shells discovered

SHARJAH, Jan 6, (Kuna): The United Arab Emirates university has announced the discovery of ancient sea shells going back to the times before the birth of Christ.

Professor of excavation at the geology department in the university's science faculty Dr Mohammad Saeed Mohammad today told "Al Khaleej" daily that the sea shells have been discovered in different heights between 80 to 150 metres over the sea level in mountain areas in Ras Al Khaimah.

The results of the research on the sea shells showed that their ages ranged between 20 to 23 thousand years. Sea shells had been collected by the ancient man who lived in that area 23 thousand years ago and used shells as an important food for him, he added.

He also noted that the research showed that ground in the Gulf area in ancient past was higher than the time being.

He disclosed that sea shells were also found in the Arabian peninsula during that time.



Training course

A training course on computer and its utilizations was opened recently at the computer centre of Kuwait's Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET). The course, to last up to Jan 24, will be attended by 20 trainees representing the different ministries.

Measures to stamp out smuggling, infiltration from Jahra

SMUGGLING is the most common crime in Jahra, often resulting in violence and shoot-outs between smugglers and police personnel, Abdul Aziz Al Taher, commander of Jahra Governorate police patrols said.

He said that since its establishment, the command had issued 2231 tickets, referred 2130 cases to police stations, arrested 1179 offenders, captured 62 cars smuggled or stolen, and 48 others loaded with contraband, such as liquor, firearms and automatic weapons.

He stressed that securitymen shouldered

great responsibilities, such as protecting vital national installations, communal facilities responding to SOS-calls, arresting law-offenders and reducing crime rates.

He said that police personnel operating under the Jahra command were well-versed in police work and well acquainted with the governorate's neighbourhoods and districts, besides being skilled in detecting fugitives.

He added that the role played by the command was particularly important due to the borderline location of the Jahra governorate and implied cross-border illegal activities, such as smuggling and infiltration.

He said that the command also undertook special police arrangement during official occasions, VIP motorcades and co-operated in this field with other police commands involved.

He said that members of the police force had strict orders not to use weapons to catch an escaped criminal or fugitive, except when the criminal begins to shoot at them.

He added that police squads were systematically deployed around the governorate and through the different neighbourhoods to ensure that law and order prevailed.

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ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

PEOPLE generally quarrel because they cannot argue — Gilbert Chesterton, English writer (1874-1936).

OPINION
Leaders must know people

THE events in Panama and East Europe lead to the important conclusion that the leadership must be able to feel the pulse of the people.

It is not important as to what these leaders desire as they should realise that it is the people who clap and it is they who ultimately slap.

Dealing with the public requires hypersensitivity from those who understand this wisdom and those who ignore this dictate will finally fall and regret.

After leading Panama for some time, we see Noriega handcuffed and carrying a criminal identification tag. The US invaded Panama, took Noriega when he came out of the Vatican embassy and flew him to the USA to face trial.

Noriega took the US threats very lightly and it appears that his calculations were based upon results of US interference in Vietnam. He simply forgot that force alone cannot speak.

We wonder, where are the thousands of supporters who were shouting for him when he was president? It appears as if Noriega's measurement of his popularity was not well-founded and was exaggerated.

Hundreds of thousands of Panamanians surrounded the Vatican mission in Panama City demanding that Noriega give himself up to US troops. It also seems that the majority of these people are the same who supported him and called upon him to fight the USA when he was president.

Indeed, this is the norm of life — criticism is heaped on people who fail and developments get out of control when such men lose authority.

Thus, Noriega should have better studied his calculations in an objective manner and should have known with whom he was dealing. Not Noriega alone. Ceausescu should have also realised this important fact — the very people who supported them turned their backs on them.

Ahmed Al Jarallah

East European changes
Spotlight back on Soviet Union

LONDON, (Reuters): The changes that Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev triggered in Eastern Europe are bouncing inexorably back on the Soviet Union, where the ruling Communist Party faces rising ethnic tensions and public discontent.

Bloodily in Romania, peacefully elsewhere, the East bloc communist parties have been forced to relinquish their 40-year grip on power, leaving the Soviet Union the only country in the Warsaw Pact insisting on old-style one-party rule.

Gorbachev's tolerance, even connivance, led to the ousting of the East bloc communist regimes, but now in his own country, too, single-party rule is under attack.

Independent

In the Baltic republic of Lithuania, the communists have declared themselves independent of the Soviet mother party to stem falling popularity among a population many of whom would gladly secede from the Soviet Union.

Gorbachev will stage a trouble-shooting mission to Lithuania next week to seek a compromise.

In the southern republic of Azerbaijan, embroiled for two years in a dispute with neighbouring Armenia, hostility is turning increasingly against the Communist Party. This week, protesters demonstrated against communist officials and attacked border posts on the frontier with Iran.

In many parts of the country, groupings have sprung up which lack status as opposition parties but are gaining public favour and influencing the behaviour of the Communist Party itself.

Support

How much support these groups enjoy should become clear during local elections, at which a number of candidates will be permitted, due in the first half of this year.

The ethnic troubles come against a background of economic stagnation, with widespread shortages of basic goods, and inefficient, uncompetitive industry and agriculture.

The scrapping of communism in Eastern Europe has, moreover, deepened the crisis of the Soviet-led 10-nation Comecon trading bloc, which will face calls for drastic changes at a meeting of its prime ministers in Sofia next week.

Besieged by problems from every side, Gorbachev is under pressure from both radicals who want far-reaching changes as soon as possible and conservatives who want to return to the old days. Western communist sources in Moscow say.

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1537 — Alessandro de Medici is assassinated and Cosimo de Medici succeeds him in Florence.
- 1558 — French capture Calais from British.
- 1598 — Boris Godunov seizes Russian throne on death of Feodor I.
- 1622 — Holy Roman Emperor Ferdinand II and Gabour Bethlen of Transylvania sign peace treaty.
- 1761 — Afghans defeat Maharrats at Paniput in India.
- 1807 — Britain declares blockade of coasts of France and Napoleon Bonaparte's allies.
- 1932 — United States protests Japanese aggression in China.
- 1937 — Poland signs agreement with Danzig.
- 1953 — US President Harry S. Truman announces that United States has developed Hydrogen Bomb.
- 1961 — African charter is issued at Casablanca by African heads of state.
- 1967 — Fighting is reported between Chinese Red Guards and workers in Nanjing.
- 1968 — Government of Lebanon resigns after Israeli commando raid at Beirut airport.
- 1972 — India resists US pressure and grants full diplomatic recognition to China.
- 1973 — Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos suspends scheduled plebiscite on new constitution, saying his country is slipping back into subversion and corruption.
- 1987 — Lebanon's former President Camille Chamoun suffers minor wounds when remote-control car bomb explodes near his bullet-proof car.
- 1989 — United States and Libya clash in United Nations over US downing of two Libyan planes over Mediterranean.

The Foreign Minister of Bangladesh, Anisul Islam Mahmud, will arrive today in Kuwait for a three-day official visit. In a long-distance interview with Atiqus Samad, the

News Editor of Arab Times, he discussed a wide-range of subjects. Here is the full text of the interview.

Dhaka strictly non-aligned

Ties with Kuwait excellent: Position on global issues identical

QUESTION: What is the significance of your visit to Kuwait? Please describe the present state of Kuwait-Bangladesh ties?

Answer: My visit is a part of the continuous process of contact and consultations between our two brotherly countries which are bound together by religious and traditional ties and share common views and perceptions about regional and international issues. High level visits have become a regular and welcome feature of our growing ties. The visit of His Highness the Amir of Kuwait to Bangladesh in September 1980 and the visits of our President to Kuwait in February 1982 and in January 1987 have laid the firm foundations for consolidation of our relations. I believe that my discussions with the Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed will contribute further to the strengthening of our relations.

The bilateral relations between our two countries can be described as excellent. They have steadily grown in strength since Kuwait recognised Bangladesh in 1973. We are bound not only by immutable ties of history, common ideas, beliefs, traditions and culture but these have been shored up by years of close interaction. Our position on all global political and economic issues are marked by a virtual identity of approach. Kuwait has generously contributed to the development and economic progress in Bangladesh. Kuwait was one of the first countries to provide humanitarian assistance during the devastating floods of 1988.

How are Bangladesh's relations with Gulf and Middle East countries including Kuwait?

West Asia has always been a priority area of our foreign policy interests. We are bound to the region by irrevocable ties of history, religion, common traditions, ideas and culture and continuous exchange and contact over centuries. We have shared perceptions and a common identity of approach on virtually all global and regional issues. We have purposefully sought to build up meaningful and constructive relations in all spheres with all Muslim countries in the Gulf and the Middle East.

Will some specific subjects be discussed between you and Kuwaiti officials?

The agenda is an open-ended one. The fundamental purpose of the visit is to maintain continuity in the process of consultations. During my visit I hope to discuss the entire range of bilateral, regional and international issues of common concern.

Kuwait has given development aid to Bangladesh for several projects, but has not taken part in industrial ventures or agricultural field. Will Bangladesh try to involve Kuwait in these fields? For example, Kuwait may take part in the petrochemical sector or can provide the funds for agricultural development to fulfil its food needs? Is Kuwait helping Bangladesh in oil exploration?

Kuwait has been very generous in contributing to the development of Bangladesh. It is true that assistance given has been mainly project oriented but possibilities exist for expansion in other fields. We will be indeed happy if the government of Kuwait or the private entrepreneurs come forward for investment in Bangladesh. I will take this opportunity to apprise them of the liberal incentives and opportunities available for investment in Bangladesh.

Kuwait is not participating in oil exploration in Bangladesh. We hope that with the rich experience in the oil sector Kuwait will participate in the development of this sector in Bangladesh.

Floods have spared Bangladesh this year, but may not in future. What measures are being taken by Bangladesh to save it from the ravages of floods? Will Kuwait participate in flood control measures taken up by Bangladesh? In what way?

In the wake of the two consecutive catastrophic floods of 1987 and 1988 in Bangladesh, there had been a renewed awakening, both nationally and internationally, to find lasting solution to this problem. Hon'ble President of Bangladesh on Nov 16, 1988 at the United Nations Special Meeting on Assistance to Bangladesh after the 1988 floods at New York called for sustained international support for a meaningful solution to flood problem in Bangladesh.

Following the President's call for a concerted action, the international community responded in an unprecedented way for the short, medium and long-term solution to the problem of Bangladesh floods.

To co-ordinate international efforts in this regard, the World Bank has prepared a report entitled, "Bangladesh: Action Plan for Flood Control", which was the basis for discussion at the international conference held in London on Dec 11 and 12, 1989. Representatives of international organisations and donor governments endorsed the plan and indicated that they would support a series of pilot projects and studies with an estimated cost of about \$150 million as the first stage of a comprehensive programme of flood preparedness and control.

The action plan contains a combination of



Anisul Islam Mahmud

projects that are ready to be initiated in the next two or three years and studies leading to further projects in subsequent years. The plan includes support for technical, socio-economic and environmental studies.

The international conference was attended by 15 donor countries and 11 international donor agencies including Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development. It is hoped that on the bilateral plane, the government of Kuwait will come forward to finance projects under the plan which it, along with other participants, endorsed at London.

Bangladesh was one of the first countries which recognised the state of Palestine within 24 hours of its proclamation. What steps are being taken by Bangladesh to help Palestinians have their state within a geographic boundary?

Bangladesh has all along maintained that the crux of the Middle East problem lies in the comprehensive settlement which guarantees total and unconditional withdrawal of Israel from all Palestinian and Arab territories that it has occupied since 1967, including the holy city of Jerusalem. Such a settlement must also permit the Palestinian people to exercise their inalienable rights to return to their homeland and to self-determination of a national independent state under the leadership of their sole and legitimate representative — the PLO. It is in pursuance of this consistent stand that Bangladesh was one of the first few countries to recognise the state of Palestine soon after its proclamation. Our commitment to the cause of the Palestinians is total. We reaffirm our solidarity with the Palestinian brethren in their just struggle and will support them in all international forums and organisations. We also emphasise the need for an immediate convening of an international conference on the Middle East with the participation of the PLO on an equal footing. Bangladesh stands ready to extend every support to the UN secretary-general in his efforts towards convening such a conference.

How is Bangladesh helping Palestinians to sustain the intifada?

The intifada, the heroic resistance of the Palestinian people against the illegal occupation by Israeli armed forces of Arab and Palestinian lands has now completed a full two years. Bangladesh has from its very inception consistently and unflinchingly supported the Palestinian cause at every opportunity and in every forum. The crux of the issue is the restoration of the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people and the establishment of a state of their own in their own homeland under the leadership of the Palestinian Liberation Organisation. In total conformity with the Islamic world Bangladesh has unequivocally supported every initiative to realise this just cause.

Nearer home, will Bangladesh have better relations with India now that India has a new government? Bangladesh had problems with New Delhi over the sharing of Ganges waters, building of dams upriver by India and support to insurgents in Chittagong Hill Tracts. Will Bangladesh push for agreements on these issues now?

Bangladesh has always had friendly and co-operative relations with India. We have always believed that it is in our common interest to seek resolution of all outstanding issues between our two countries. It has only been a few days that the new government has been in office in New Delhi. However, going by the pronouncements of the National Front leaders both before and after the recent general elections, which gave the impression that a National Front government would seek fur-

ther improvement in India's relations with its neighbours, one would naturally expect some new initiatives in this regard.

As regards the sharing of Ganges waters, our proposal in this regard made in December, 1988 awaits a response from the Indian government. As to the Chittagong Hill Tracts issue, we are constantly in touch with the Indian authorities for expediting the return of genuine Bangladeshi refugees back to their homes in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. We hope that present government of India will continue to remain committed to an early resolution of the issue.

Now that sweeping reforms are taking place in the Eastern bloc countries and barriers are falling one by one between communist and capitalist countries, what role will the Non-Aligned Movement have in the changing circumstances?

The dramatic developments now taking place in the Eastern bloc constitute both a vindication and a challenge to the Non-Aligned Movement. The fundamental rationale of non-alignment was to follow an independent path between the power blocs at a time when the cold war was the dominant feature of international relations. Countries who joined the movement were free to decide on issues based on their own independent judgement of merits. Today, the fundamental thrust of non-alignment has evolved from the pursuit of decolonisation and preservation of political independence to that of securing economic stability and independence. The complex changes taking place in the contemporary world in political, military, and socio-economic terms requires careful assessment and monitoring. It is my confirmed belief that role of the Non-Aligned Movement has acquired far greater efficacy and relevance in promoting its fundamental principles in an international climate that is more politically conducive and less divisive.

Does Bangladesh belong to any camp, Western or Eastern?

Bangladesh does not belong to any camp because one of its fundamental state policies is non-alignment. We strictly adhere to the principles and objectives of the Non-Aligned Movement. Further, our foreign policy is based on friendship to all and malice to none.

Which is the problem areas for Bangladesh in international relations?

Bangladesh as a peace loving country is primarily concerned with its own development and progress. We are, however, extremely hard pressed in our endeavours for progress because of dismal world economic situation and the wide disparity of wealth and resources between the developed and developing countries.

Previously, visits to USSR by a Bangladeshi foreign minister were cancelled. Are there any plans for you to visit Moscow soon? If not, why?

There has been a proposal for a visit by the foreign minister of Bangladesh to the USSR but it did not materialise mainly because of pre-occupations of foreign ministers of both the countries. I will be happy to visit Moscow at a mutually convenient time.

At home, what is the political situation? There have been reports that mid-term parliamentary polls may be held. What is the need for polls now?

The political situation in Bangladesh is stable. The last parliamentary election was held in the country on March 3, 1988, and the present members of the Parliament were elected for a tenure of five years.

There are a large number of Bangladeshis in Kuwait, many of whom face difficulties particularly due to low salaries and non-payment of salaries. Will you discuss these problems with Kuwaiti officials?

We know that a substantial number of Bangladeshis are employed in Kuwait. It is no doubt a matter of satisfaction for us that we have been able to participate in the development activities of the fraternal country, Kuwait. I know there are hardships and difficulties for our people. I am quite concerned with their welfare. At the same time I have confidence that the government and brotherly people of Kuwait have similar concern for the welfare of their Bangladeshi brethren and will try to mitigate their sufferings as much as possible.

I will, of course, take this opportunity to discuss with the leaders of Kuwait about the general wellbeing of our people working here.

Bangladesh being friendly to both Iran and Iraq, can you give hints whether permanent peace will be achieved soon between the two Gulf countries?

As you are aware, Bangladesh in concert with the international community have ceaselessly worked for the end of the tragic fratricidal war between Iran and Iraq. We feel extremely happy that it has come to an end. Although peace negotiations because of differences of views of the two countries on certain points, we are however, confident that they will find a settlement with a view to bring about a comprehensive and durable peace in the region.

Cambodian stalemate

BANGKOK, (Reuters): Eleven years after Vietnamese troops invaded Cambodia, overthrew Pol Pot's feared Khmer Rouge regime and installed a new government under Heng Samrin, the country still endures civil war with little hope of solution.

Vietnam's troops have pulled out, leaving the Phnom Penh government's army, estimated at 60,000 regulars and 100,000 militiamen, to fight the Khmer Rouge and its uneasy non-communist allies.

Heng Samrin's government was installed on Jan 7, 1979, and he is now the country's president.

The dry season, which started in early December and lasts until the end of May, saw an expected offensive by the rebels pushing out from their heavily defended bases along the Thai border.

The gem-mining area around Pailin, a nearly deserted township, fell to the Khmer Rouge, while their allies, factions headed by former head of State Prince Norodom Sihanouk and veteran Cambodian politician Son Sann, have grabbed territory further north.

But despite their efforts, the rebels have so far failed to take control of a major population centre, although the provincial capitals of Battambang and Sisophon are threatened.

"Most of the fighting is small-scale, local confrontations," a Western diplomat said. "It's pretty much on the level of AK-47s, rocket grenades and mortars."

"The government's aim seems to be to concentrate on pulling back to hold the main towns. The Khmer Rouge seem pretty free to roam around the area around Pailin, although it's very underpopulated out there."

He said neither side seemed able to make a decisive move and said a long-term military stalemate was expected.

The Khmer Rouge are strong — some 30,000 of them — but unlike the period just before 1975, they don't have the backing that they had then of the North Vietnamese Army," he said. "They have no transport, no artillery to speak of. Likewise the government is on its own now with the Vietnamese withdrawal."

Sukhumtham Paribatra, a former adviser to Thai Prime Minister Chatichai Choonhavan, said on Monday that he thought the rebels might capture some towns from government forces in the coming months and predicted small-scale fighting further inside the country.

But he added: "I expect continued military stalemate inside Cambodia."

The diplomatic situation also remains deadlocked.

End of year messages from guerrilla leaders, monitored in Bangkok, made it clear that they continue to reject Prime Minister Hun Sen's Dec 9 plan for a United Nations-enforced peace settlement, which would effectively stop the Khmer Rouge in its tracks and leave the present administration in place pending elections.

The Khmer Rouge, who diplomats say were responsible for more than a million deaths during their four years in power, insist that the Phnom Penh government step down and share power with all factions, an arrangement it says should be monitored by the United Nations until free and democratic elections are held.

Khieu Samphan, the Khmer Rouge vice president, who makes most of its public pronouncements, stressed that the organisation and its allies had not changed their demands.

"The world is requested to consider this. No party will be allowed to violate any other party and Cambodia will in no way be a threat to other countries," he said in his New Year message broadcast by Khmer Rouge radio and monitored here.

Son Sann, in his message, repeated his stand that the Vietnamese troop withdrawal was a farce and urged acceptance of the power-sharing plan as well as the immediate reconvening of the National Assembly.

Diplomats said Britain's public acceptance of the Vietnamese troop withdrawal and recent Australian diplomatic efforts to seek a United Nations "Namibia-style" solution, although key moves, had not altered the basic intransigence of both sides.

"I sometimes wonder if this isn't where we all were before," a Western diplomat said.

Quote me

"Hungary's decision to receive Botha demonstrated bad faith and a cynical disregard for international agreements. Only 10 days ago, representatives of the Hungarian government assured the ANC that they have no contact with the apartheid regime. Hungary cannot expect to maintain normal relations with the peoples of Africa while it betrays the enemy of our continent." — Alfred Nzo, secretary-general of the ANC on P. W. Botha's visit to Hungary.

"Among the hundreds of thousands who flocked to Natal and Cape beaches over the Christmas and New Year's weekends, not one incident of racial confrontation of any note was reported. The incident free holiday-making ... reflects the extent to which the last decade's reforms have fostered attitudes of mutual acceptance among the country's diverse communities." — S. African Broadcasting Corp on the inter-racial swim on New Year's Day and over Xmas on beaches.

"The people of Czechoslovakia have recently found the long-lost key to their national past. The future will depend only on our own talents, skills and diligence. The government asks you to forget old wrongs and share your experience, expertise, contacts and means in the process of our country's renaissance, in the spirit of a new national understanding." — the new Czech government appealing to Czechs abroad to come back home.

"It is a cute idea but he won't make it. He will be lucky to make the United States team because that is harder than making the Olympic final. Mark will be up against swimmers at their prime aged 20 to 24." — West German Michael Gross on American Mark Spitz comeback at age 39.

"If I had known I could complain I would have, but I didn't realise until my coach (Stan Franker) told me at the end of the match. It happened to me once before and I didn't put my timing off." — Brenda Schultz after Zvereva had used the tactic of running around the baseline while awaiting serves to defeat her (Schultz).

"Our talks with Botha were important. We made it clear that we oppose apartheid and that its total end is the precondition to diplomatic recognition. At the same time, the meeting offered an opportunity to have direct contact with South African political and business circles, and we were also led by the consideration that there are over 10,000 people of Hungarian origin living in South Africa." — Hungarian Foreign Minister Gyula Horn on P. W. Botha's visit to Hungary.

India sorts out trouble with neighbours

NEW DELHI, (Reuters): India's new government got down to work on Friday on improving Delhi's precarious regional relations.

It immediately reported progress on sorting out troubles with Nepal, due of the neighbours of the giant nation of 810 million people that has felt bullied and used.

A joint statement said India and Nepal made progress on a trade war at the core of their difficulties.

But there was no immediate word on whether India was prepared to compromise on a March 31 final withdrawal date of its troops from Sri Lanka as Colombo demands.

Indian Foreign Minister Inder Kumar Gujral held talks with his counterparts from Nepal and Sri Lanka on Friday.

Over the next few days, Delhi is also due to hold talks with Bhutan's King Jigme Wangchuk and Abdul Sattar, a special envoy from Pakistan, against which India has fought three wars since both became independent in 1947.

Sattar's talks, due to start on Monday, will be the first high level contact between the two countries since Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh came to power last month promising India would no longer bully its neighbours.

Only with Bhutan does India have reasonably amicable relations and even that tiny landlocked Himalayan nation has discreetly moved from under Delhi's shadow in recent years.

Both Nepal and Sri Lanka are angry at India.

Lanka on Friday.

The Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Ranjan Wijeratne spluttered in rage earlier this week after the new Indian government, which had opposed the Indian military presence there before November elections, set March 31 as its new pullout target.

The previous government of Rajiv Gandhi had promised to do its best to pull out the last of 50,000 Indian troops, sent more than two years ago to help end a Tamil rebellion, by the end of 1989.

Officially, the new Indian government has said logistical problems were at the root of its inability to get the troops out before the end of March.

Wijeratne caustically offered ships.

Diplomatic sources said Wijeratne had demanded in his talks with Gujral that all the Indian troops be removed this month.

Front (EPRLF) and its allies to protect themselves from the Tigers.

In its bid to raise troops, the TNA has forcibly recruited young men like Chandramohan.

But the group is often overwhelmed by the superior fire power and greater dedication of its rivals.

A clash in the north central Polonnaruwa district on December 23, killed 44 TNA militiamen and led to the surrender of 155 others to the Sri Lankan Army including Chandramohan.

Conscripts surrender to Sri Lankan Army

POLONNARUWA, Sri Lanka, (Reuters): Fifteen-year-old Sivalingam Chandramohan was sitting in a classroom when he was dragged away by a group of armed men.

"My parents still don't know where I am," said the spiky-haired teenager who was abducted in Sri Lanka's Eastern Batticaloa district two months ago. His kidnappers took him to a camp where he was trained to use guns.

Chandramohan said his instructors were soldiers of the Indian peacekeeping force, brought to Sri Lanka in 1987 to enforce a pact between Colombo

and New Delhi to suppress a separatist rebellion by minority Tamils in the north and east of the country.

The Indians, who are pulling out of Sri Lanka, have been fighting a powerful Tamil group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

The Sri Lankan government has accused Indian troops of training and arming an illegal militia, the Tamil National Army (TNA), to continue the fight against the Tigers after they withdraw.

Foreign Minister Ranjan Wijeratne has said the TNA was formed by another militant Tamil group, the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation

Army (EPRLF) and its allies to protect themselves from the Tigers.

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Alshall stock price indices

Market turns mixed

THE Alshall Index for Kuwaiti shareholding companies recorded on Wednesday Jan 3, 1990 an average of 40.29 points with a decrease of 0.47 point — 1.15 per cent — from last week's average of Wednesday Dec 27, 1989. The Alshall Index for non-Kuwaiti shareholding companies reached 66.70 with an increase of 0.42 point — 0.63 per cent — for the same period, according to Alshall weekly market review.

The trading volume for Kuwaiti shares reached 31.1 million shares at a daily average of 7.78 million shares with an increase of 15 per cent over the previous week's daily average of 6.76 million shares.

Non-Kuwaiti traded shares reached 3.285 million shares at a daily average of 0.82 million shares with a decrease of 80 per cent from last week's daily average of 4.11 million shares.

The value of Kuwaiti traded shares was KD10.8 million at a daily average of KD2.7 million, an increase of 90 per cent over last week's daily average of KD1.42 million.

The value of non-Kuwaiti traded shares was KD0.18 million at a daily average of KD0.45 million, a decrease of 77 per cent from last week's daily average of KD0.194 million.

For the Kuwaiti shares market, the banking sector came first at 60 per cent of total trading against 44 per cent last week. The Commercial Bank had the lead at 47 per cent, followed by The National Bank of Kuwait at 23 per cent and the Gulf Bank at 12 per cent. The investment sector came second at 30 per cent in which, Coast Investment and Development Company had the lead at 50 per cent, followed by the Kuwait Investment Projects Company at 34 per cent and the National Investment Company at 16 per cent. The real estate sector came third at 6 per cent in which Kuwait Real Estate Company had the lead at 88 per cent followed by Pearl of Kuwait Real Estate Company at 11 per cent and the United Realty Company at 1 per cent. As for the non-Kuwaiti shares market, Bahrain Middle East Bank had the lead at 73 per cent, followed by the Bahrain International Bank at 24 per cent and Umm Al Quain Cement Company at 2 per cent.

The Kuwaiti Shares market gave signs of mixed performance, one of the indices reflected decrease in activity while the other two reflected signs of increase.

The non-Kuwaiti shares market gave signs of decrease contrary to several past week's performances. However, last week could be considered as an exception because it started at the end of last year and ended at the beginning of the present year and was cut by an official holiday.

This explains the high activity at the beginning of the week and the decrease at the end of it. If history of the past few years repeats itself, which we expect, the market would reflect slow activity for the next few weeks with the exception of certain companies prior to the declaration of their financial statements and dividends distribution. Some time will elapse however, before new interventions are exerted to artificially push the market.

Kuwait shareholding companies index				
	Wed. 03/01/90	Wed. 27/12/89	Change	Points
Banking Sector				
The National Bk	123.82	124.96	-1.15	
The Gulf Bk	31.48	32.81	-1.33	
The Comm. Bk	25.03	25.47	-0.44	
Al Ahli Bk	34.31	35.32	-1.01	
Bk of Kt & ME	31.91	31.91	—	

Kuwait R. Est. Bk	29.57	30.86	-1.29
Burgan Bk	26.53	27.06	-0.52
Kt Finance House	79.10	82.39	-3.30
Sector Index	48.28	50.18	-0.93
Inv. Sector			
Kuwait Inv. Co.	9.37	10.28	-0.92
Kt. Int. Inv. Co.	8.93	8.93	—
IFA	29.34	29.34	—
Comm. Facilities	151.25	148.50	2.75
National Inv.	66.67	66.67	—
Kt. Inv. Proj.	94.38	93.26	1.12
Coast Inv. & Dev.	98.82	100.00	-1.18
Sector Index	34.13	34.33	-0.20
Ind. Sector			
Kt. Ins. Co.	38.27	38.27	—
Gulf Ins. Co.	23.08	23.46	-0.38
Al Ahleia Ins.	55.92	55.92	—
Warba Ins. Co.	51.55	54.12	-2.58
Sector Index	37.88	38.10	-0.24
Real Est. Sec.			
Kt. Real Est.	15.04	15.29	-0.25
Utd. Realty	5.16	5.16	—
Nat. Real Est.	39.42	37.43	1.99
Pearl of Kt.	70.63	71.43	-0.79
Sector Index	18.44	18.28	0.16
Ind. Sector			
Kt. Cmt. Co.	11.45	10.22	1.23
Ref. Ind.	84.55	84.55	—
Gulf Cables	116.52	116.52	—
Sector Index	60.44	60.44	—
Service Sector	30.24	29.28	0.95
Kt. Cmptr. Co.	149.04	149.04	—
Kt. Cinema Co.	9.51	9.51	—
Pub. W/ous Co.	64.65	64.65	—
Kt. Comm. M.Co.	33.61	33.61	—
M. Tele. Syst.	333.33	342.86	-9.52
Sector Index	59.02	60.00	-0.97
Food Sector			
L. Trad. & Transp.	29.29	29.29	—
Utd Fisheries	11.05	11.05	—
Kt. Utd Poultry	110.01	110.01	—
Kt. Food Co.	75.86	74.71	1.15
Sector Index	38.88	38.88	0.20
Overall Index	40.29	40.76	-0.47

Non-Kuwaiti shareholding companies index				
	Wed. 03/01/90	Wed. 27/12/89	Change	Points
First G. Bk.	236.84	223.68	13.16	
Bah. Intl. Bk.	88.28	89.66	-1.38	
Bah. M.E. Bk.	94.92	96.81	-1.90	
A. Gen. Inv. (Shua)	43.94	43.94	—	
Umm Al Q. Cmt.	17.62	17.62	—	
G. Med. Projs.	12.12	12.12	—	
Total Index	66.70	67.13	-0.42	

—Base period 31/12/1983.
—All the companies listed by the Stock Exchange under non-Kuwaiti companies are included.

Saudis to work for higher oil output quota

NICOSIA, Jan 6, (Reuters): Saudi Arabian Oil Minister Hisham Nazer, reiterating demands by King Fahd, said he hoped Opec would raise the kingdom's oil output quota.

"The kingdom's Opec quota is now 5.38 million barrels per day (BPD) and we hope to increase it during this year and forthcoming years," the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) quoted him as saying on Saudi Arabian television last night.

King Fahd said last Sunday Saudi Arabia wanted a higher quota and would achieve this in consultation with other members of Opec (the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries) when demand in the market warranted.

Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest oil exporter, has launched a programme to increase its oil output capacity to 100 million BPD from around 6.5 million in the next five years.

Saudi Arabia and other Gulf oil states, which together have two-thirds of the world's proven oil reserves, want to capture a large portion of the projected growth in oil demand in 1990.

Nazer said King Fahd had asked him to ensure that "the kingdom should not lose its share in the market and this is what had happened in all Opec conferences."

Riyadh insists that its 24.46 per cent share of the total Opec output is an absolute minimum and it will not allow the percentage to shrink any further.

The 13-member group's ministerial meeting in Vienna last November raised Saudi Arabia's quota to 5.38 million BPD for the first half of 1990 from 5.014 million in the second half of last year. It set a total output ceiling of 22.1 million BPD.

Quotas for the second half of 1990 will be reviewed in May. Saudi Arabia's oil production in December was estimated at 5.65 million BPD in a Reuters survey.

"The kingdom reached this level of oil production because of high oil demand and... co-operation between producers and consumers," Nazer said in a Reuters survey.

He said oil demand and supply were now balanced in the market.

Saudi Arabia, after years of cuts in government spending due to a decline in oil prices in the 1980s, plans to raise expenditure by two billion riyals (\$333 million) to 143 billion riyals (\$38.1 billion) in 1990 fiscal year.

Finance and National Economy Minister Mohammed Abu Khail said last week that oil revenues would increase in 1990 due to improvement in world oil markets.

Economists in the Gulf estimate the kingdom's oil revenues rose by more than 20 per cent last year over 1988 and they believe the trend will continue in 1990 as world demand for oil is growing.

Nazer also said Saudi Arabia had discovered new fields yielding gasoline-rich and low-sulphur crudes which fetch a better price in the market.

"This may increase the price of the barrel between \$1 to 2" he said.

Meanwhile, sharp increases in home heating oil prices in the United States can be blamed on an unusual December cold snap, oil industry officials said yesterday, but consumer groups and some members of Congress suspect something more sinister.

Heaters, especially in the northeastern United States, worked overtime in December and consumers were forced to pay much higher prices for the oil.

According to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, the average price nationally of a gallon of No. 2 fuel oil in December 1989 was \$2.6 cents. In November 1989, the price jumped to \$1.3 cents. And in December 1989, northeastern states really felt the pinch — the price of a gallon of heating oil in New York during the last week of December was \$1.26.



Concept car

Media from around the world circle Oldsmobile's Expression, a concept car at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit. Concept cars are rarely put into production, but are crowd pleasures at the show. (Reuters wirephoto)

Transaction valued at about \$450m

Investcorp arranges purchase of Color Tile

INVESTCORP, the international investment bank announced that it has arranged the acquisition of Color Tile, Inc., from Knoll International Holdings, Inc., in a transaction valued at approximately \$450 million. The existing operating management of Color Tile participated with Investcorp in the acquisition.

Color Tile, headquartered in Fort Worth, Texas, is the leading domestic specialty retailer of floor coverings with 700 stores in the 48 contiguous states. Color Tile is the only national retail chain which offers a complete line of floor coverings and related products, including carpet, ceramic tile, wood flooring, resilient flooring, and wallcoverings. The company expects revenues in 1989 in excess of \$460 million.

Paul W. Soldatos and Robert V. Glaeser, members of Investcorp's management committee and members of Color Tile's board of directors, said "Color Tile is the national leader in its industry. Not only is the company's core business performing well in its existing stores, it also has excellent growth potential from its recent introduction of carpeting and from new store openings." Eddie Leach, Color Tile's chairman and chief executive officer, said "Investcorp has achieved success in its investment activities by investing in solid companies with a strong presence in their industry. Color Tile meets those criteria. We are pleased that our financial partner has provided approximately \$110 million for the transaction. Our management team is excited about Investcorp and enthused about being co-owners of Color Tile."

Larry Nagle, Color Tile's president and chief operating officer, said "Investcorp and management have acquired the company at a particularly advantageous time. In June we began offering ColorCarpet, our new product line of wall to wall carpeting. Our 700 stores now carry a complete selection of carpet samples from the industry's leading manufacturers. We're already exceeding our projections in carpet sales and expect to continue to do so through 1990 and thereafter."

Color Tile also announced that NatWest USA Credit Corp., a unit of National Westminster Bank USA, has provided the company with a \$50 million revolving credit to fund the company's working capital requirements. Investcorp provides investment and advisory services for international clients. Acting as a principal and intermediary, Investcorp engages in corporate investment, real estate investment, funds management and trading activities.

Some of Investcorp's other corporate investments have included Tiffany & Co., the world renowned jeweler; Gucci, creator and retailer of high fashion luxury accessories; Peabody Inc., a department store in the Mid-Atlantic states; Club Car Inc., the golf cart manufacturer; Burnham Service Corporation, a Georgia based distribution, transportation and trucking company; Delwood Foods, the New York based milk products processor and distributor; Carvel Corporation, the third largest ice cream franchisor in the US; Bertram & Trojan Inc., the yacht manufacturer; Sports & Recreation, Inc., a Southeastern sporting goods retailer, and Main Street Dairy, a Los Angeles processor and distributor of milk products.

Overseas investment on the rise

TAIPEI, Taiwan, Jan 6, (AP): Taiwan announced today it approved \$2.4 billion of foreign investment last year, up 104 per cent from 1988.

Japan continued to be the largest foreign investor in Taiwan in 1989 by pumping in \$667 million — or a 47 per cent increase, an investment commission report said.

The United States followed with \$380 million, up 154 per cent from 1988, the report said. Investment from Europe totalled \$331 million, a 159 per cent increase from 1988.

Taiwan's efficient manpower and well-developed industrial base attracted foreign investors to Taiwan, said John Ni, director of the government Industrial Development and Investment Centre.

He added that the island's rising labour costs and disputes on environmental pollution were not considered major problems.

He also attributed the increase to several major projects, including the \$160 million investment by Imperial Chemical Industries of Britain and the \$140 million investment by ICI Omnicron BV of Holland. Both involved chemical products.

Foreign investment in the chemical sector totalled \$520 million, while \$391 million went to the electronics and electrical sector.

The report said most Taiwanese investment overseas involved chemical products and financial services.

London share prices ease

LONDON, Jan 6, (UPI): After a record-breaking four days, equities on the London International Stock Exchange ended the week with more of a whimper than a bang, as early new year excitement lost its edge.

Nevertheless, the Financial Times Stock Exchange 100-share index closed Friday at 2444.5 points, up 21.8 points on the week, if down 7.1 points on the day. The financial Times 30 index stood at 1948.8 points, down 8.5 points on the day, but up 30.2 points on the week.

On Tuesday, the first day's trade this year, stocks took an early shot at breaking the exchange's all-time record, rising 20 points but failing to break through the 2445.2 level set on July 16, 1987. Levels eased later that day, but the stronger shares of the FTSE still managed significant gains.

EXCHANGE RATES

Indian rupee	0.017330
Sri Lankan rupee	0.007380
Pakistani rupee	0.013740
Bangladesh taka	0.008970
US dollar	0.292200
Pound sterling	0.478750
UAE dirham	0.079520
Deutsche mark	0.173000
Japanese yen	0.002033

Amman unveils austerity budget

Govt cuts spending

AMMAN, Jan 6, (Reuters): Jordan's government unveiled its 1990 budget to parliament today, slashing spending and freezing public sector wages to help curb that debt-saddled economy in line with IMF recommendations.

Finance Minister Basel Jaraneh expressed satisfaction with Jordan's economic performance and stressed commitment to a five-year economic reform plan agreed with the International Monetary Fund in April.

The plan is designed to increase self-reliance, boost exports and production and cut the budget deficit as a proportion of gross domestic product while maintaining reasonable social services and food subsidies.

Economist Fahed Faneh told Reuters the budget was in line with IMF recommendations, but said he feared parliament would

press for more spending on public services.

A parliamentary source expected the draft budget, endorsed by the cabinet in November, to spark lively debate in parliament.

"The majority of deputies will use this opportunity to get applause from their constituents and will make demands for more food subsidies and higher public sector wages," he said.

Faneh said that if the "government yields to the pressure then the IMF programme would be in shambles."

Jardaneh said the official cost of living index rose 25 per cent in the past 11 months, although the Jordanian dinar had been devalued by nearly 50 per cent since October 1988.

The dinar stood at 0.340 to the dollar in October 1988 compared with the current official rate of 0.650.

The budget proposes expenditure of 1.105 billion dinars (\$1.7 billion). Last year's budget put spending at 1.035 billion dinars (\$1.5 billion), but the new figure represents a 20 per cent cut in real terms because of devaluation.

The budget anticipated revenue of 906.7 million dinars (\$1.4 billion) with a deficit of 199 million dinars (\$306 million) to be covered by external and internal borrowing.

The 1989 budget forecast a deficit of 122 million dinars (\$256 million) at end-1988 exchange rates.

Jardaneh told the house the budget deficit would be cut to the equivalent of 16.5 per cent of GDP in 1990 in line with the IMF accord to slowly trim the deficit.

He said Jordan expected to receive a minimum of \$360 million in Arab aid compared with \$516 million last year.

Panel tells how to avoid future Exxon spills

ANCHORAGE, Alaska, Jan 6, (UPI): A panel established to investigate how to prevent future oil spills, such as last year's Exxon Valdez disaster, concluded yesterday that oil should be shipped in double-hulled tankers under close government scrutiny.

The Alaska oil spill commission blamed the federal government for lax oversight of an industry that cared more about profit than safety and called for a major overhaul of the way the United States ships oil.

The oil industry would be required to offer new safety guarantees to the public to gain permission to ship oil, according to the commission's executive summary presented to Alaska Gov. Steve Cooper.

Alaska, the largest US oil producer, hopes to prevent a recurrence of the March 24 Exxon Valdez oil disaster, the worst spill in US history.

Many of the reforms suggested by the panel were promised before 1977 when the first Alaska North Slope crude oil flowed from Prudhoe Bay through the 800-mile (1,300 km) trans-Alaska pipeline to its southern Alaska terminus at Valdez.

Under the commission proposals, oil tankers would be monitored in much the same way that the air traffic control systems work to ensure airliner safety world-wide.

EEC commission welcomes Italian monetary decision

BRUSSELS, Jan 6, (UPI): The European Economic Community's Executive Commission today welcomed the Italian government's decision to reduce the fluctuation margin of the lira in the European Monetary System and to apply a depreciation against other EMS currencies.

"The decision by the Italian authorities to reduce the margin of fluctuation of the Italian lira to 2.25 per cent is a welcome development," a commission statement said.

"The realignment which has taken place today, following consultations between the commission, the community ministers of finance and the central bank governors, confirms the EMS is working well," the commission said.

E. Germany entitled to join EEC

DUBLIN, Jan 6, (Reuters): A democratic East Germany would be entitled to full European Economic Community membership, EEC president Jacques Delors said in an interview published today.

"East Germany is a potential member of the European Economic Community," Delors, in Dublin for talks on the six-month Irish EEC presidency, told the Irish Times.

"The obstacles are the Yalta agreement (after World War Two), the cold war and the communist regime. If we abolish that, the East German people, because they are German, are potential members of the community. It is so simple."

Mass protests ended four decades of exclusive communist rule in East Germany late last year, and the country's first free elections are scheduled next May.

Delors said that when West German leaders ratified the treaty of Rome which founded the EEC, "They made a special declaration that if reunification was possible, we will reconsider the framework of Europe."

"It provides the effective framework for a strong anti-inflationary policy leading to growth and stability," it said.

Since the EMS was set up in 1979, the lira was allowed a fluctuation margin of 6 per cent above and below the agreed central rate against other participating currencies.

For the other EMS currencies, the fluctuation margin was 2.25 per cent on either side of their central rates.

When the Spanish peseta joined the EMS last year, it was also allowed a 6 per cent margin.

The Italian government at the same time, in agreement with its EMS partners, set a new central rate of 748.217 lire against the Deutsche mark, the strongest currency in the EMS. Up to Friday the central rate had been 720 lire. The realignment amounted to a depreciation of the lira by about 3 per cent.

It was the first realignment of an EMS currency in three years. Normally, when several currencies are involved in a realignment, this is agreed at a meeting of finance ministers. But when

only one currency is affected, it can be done simply by telephone or telex.

Under the EMS exchange rate system, central banks are obliged to intervene on markets whenever their currencies threaten to float outside the allowed fluctuation margins.

The commission statement said the Italian decision to narrow the fluctuation margin also was "a further indication that member countries are preparing themselves for the first stage of economic and monetary union which will require greater convergence of economic policy and performance."

The first stage of EMU is to start on July 1. It also provides for all EEC currencies to participate in the EMS.

North Sea prices jump again

LONDON, Jan 6, (Kuna): Britain's North Sea oil prices jumped again yesterday as part of the world-wide rally caused by the cold snap and refinery problems in America.

Yesterday, Brent crude, the benchmark for UK North Sea oil, was for prompt delivery trading at \$23.70 per barrel, the highest rise for four years.

This also came after a surge in US petrol prices, it was reported here yesterday. Last night, Brent for prompt delivery was quoted at \$22.15 a barrel. And West Texas Intermediate, the main American crude, was quoted at \$23.21 a barrel overnight in the US.

Analysts said that a combination of events ranging from cold weather in America and Europe, delays in restoring North Sea production, reductions in Russian oil output and the low levels in European waterways, which has handicapped transportation of fuel by barges, have contributed to maintaining prices at higher than expected levels.

The specialised newspaper Lloyd's List said that heavy buying by American oil companies and European spot markets has also been a factor.

In addition, prices of Dubai, an important Middle East crude, rose by 90 cents to \$1.05 a barrel. Dubai for February delivery was priced at \$18.65 a barrel, up from \$17.75 a barrel.

In a related development, analysts predicted that prices could go even further as the overall trend remained bullish.

One European trader was quoted by the Wall Street Journal yesterday as saying "I think a lot of players will try to take profits in this market."

India keen to build gas pipeline

NEW DELHI, Jan 6, (Reuters): Iran wants to build a natural gas pipeline from eastern Iran, through Pakistan to India at a cost of \$11.75 billion, an Iranian minister said today.

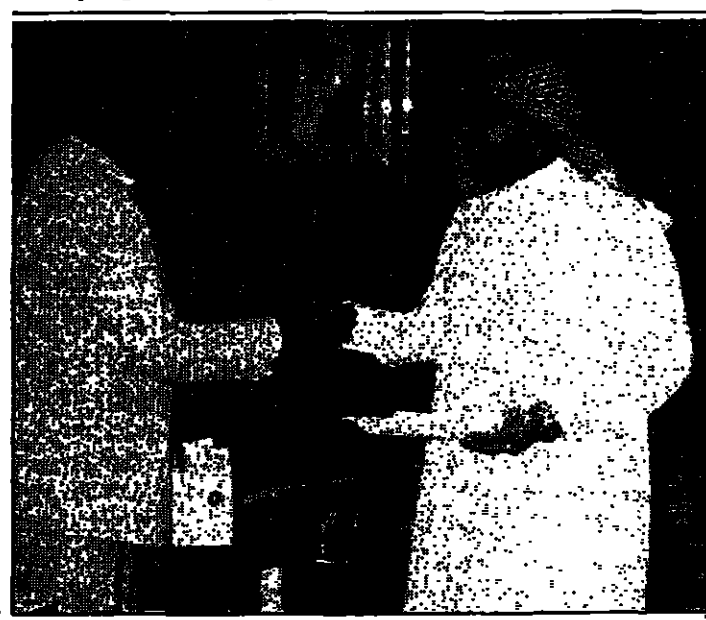
Deputy Minister of Mines and Metals Ali Shams Ardekani said the scheme "calls for a pipeline of 100 million cubic metres a day starting from Bandar Abbas in eastern Iran through southern Pakistan and then across India to Calcutta."

Ardekani told a meeting here of the International Association for Energy Economics that he had not officially submitted the plan for the 2,000 mile (3,200 km) pipeline to the governments of India and Pakistan.

"The economics of this project is manifest in replacing imported oil," Ardekani said. "This project does not compete with indigenous fuels."

India imports 450,000 barrels of oil a day, accounting for two-thirds of its balance of payments deficit.

Iran has 15 trillion cubic metres of natural gas reserves, of which 10 trillion is targeted for export.



Picture shows Sheikh Abdullah Bin Mohammed Al Thani pictured with Kamal Puri after they signed an agreement in Sharjah.

Skyline Institute signs pact

SKYLINE Institute of Kuwait has entered into



A scene from the Oscar-nominated movie Cadillac Dreams.

Film on story from the heart nominated for Oscar

There is more to life than crack

S guns echoed in the mean streets of Los Angeles' ghettos, as youngsters found an amazing way of escaping the lethal lifestyle. They turned up on a lollywood moviemaker's doorstep with three scraps of paper...the "script" of a film they dreamed of making.

And that dream, amazingly, came true. The half-hour movie, Cadillac Dreams, was filmed in the ghetto and won an Oscar nomination. Now the youngsters are working on full-length feature, based on their original scraps of paper.

But 23-year-old Jeffrey Umson and Spanky Jackson, aren't looking only for escape, fame and fortune. They hope their movies will help their kids to see there is more life than crack, dependency and violent death.

Their story is written from the heart, and from their own rim experiences. They use harsh, street language to tell of a young black, who makes easy money dealing in drugs, but is turned down on the street.

The youngster's brother is tempted to avenge the killing, which would perpetuate the deadly ghetto cycle of drugs, murder, revenge, drugs...but the film ends on an optimistic note as the younger brother decides to throw away his gun and hold on to his dream of inventing a way to walk on water.

A simple tale, simply told, but it came close to winning a top award at Hollywood's glittering Oscars ceremony. A ceremony with stars, glitz, glamour, just a few miles, but a whole world away from the black and Hispanic ghettos.

On those mean streets where Spanky and Jeff's movie was made sometimes as many as 16 people are murdered in just one weekend. And most of the crimes are drugs-related.

The two youngsters, who are cousins, speak the language of the hopeless kids with whom they grew up. And, after the film was made, they put their poignant thoughts down on paper for the glamorous moviemaker who gave their dream a chance.

They wrote to Matia Karrell, who is now working on the big feature movie: "Just because you are born in the ghetto, doesn't mean that you have to die there."

"Cadillac Dreams is a movie that happened to our relatives and friends. It takes place in our world. The world of violent crimes, drugs and gangs. It shows the tremendous pressure an individual faces there. The pressure starts in our homes. There is no support, nothing to fall back on in times of need. That's when you go to the streets and make a family for yourself."

The youngsters go on: "You learn street life. You fulfill your dreams by selling drugs. The fast money buys you fast cars, clothes and jewellery. You believe you're a winner, a success...look what you've got for yourself."

"Later, if you're not dead, you realise you are a loser. Our movie offers a message of hope. The ghetto cycle of street crime, is old and well established."

"But it can be broken by one individual at a time. The easy way out isn't always the better

way out, as the movie shows. Cadillac Dreams can turn many lives around, like it turned ours."

"This movie started out as a dream. We believed in it, so others started to believe."

Today, as well as working on the new film, Jeff is going to college. And Matia is helping to find Spanky a job. She told me: "This is tough, as I have to work on his confidence. And Spanky needs a skill."

"Spanky is the more sensitive of the two youngsters and has had a rougher life. He is down and out and lives in a camp."

"He has been betrayed by people he felt he should be able to trust. But he is still a romantic. Drugs are so much part of his world's culture, which dictates people's behaviour."

Jeff is more stable and more political. I met the two of them when they were playing break-dancers in a film on which I was working. We became friends. That movie was a big hit and, afterwards, Spanky kept in touch because he wanted to do some more acting.

"Then he called me and said he had this dream of making a film about his neighbourhood. It's a ghetto in Pasadena, near Los Angeles. These sort of ghettos are all over. Spanky

told me he was getting tired of so many of his friends and relatives getting shot in drug-related crimes."

"He wanted to make a film that would bring people hope. To steer them away from the streets. So he came over with Jeff to my home, in a very yuppie, white neighbourhood."

Matia went on: "They were filled with such a passion and a sense of survival. Spanky had with him three pieces of paper on which he had written his story."

"It was a fairly simple one. But when he spoke about the details behind it...his life...it became much more interesting."

"It turned out that Spanky had overcome terrible circumstances to keep going. Just to survive. I said I would go to their home ground to work with them every other week. Once there, I tape-recorded what Jeff and Spanky had to say. Then they would bring their friends."

"We would just sit and talk about life. They had so much to say to anybody who would listen. I realised there were voices out there that needed to be heard."

So Matia was convinced there was a movie in the youngsters' three scraps of paper. And she set to work to make the half-hour short...little dream-

ing that it would be nominated for an Academy Award.

Cadillac Dreams has won honours at film festivals in Baltimore, Columbus and Chicago, and has been shown as far away from the Los Angeles ghettos as the Leipzig International Film Festival, in East Germany.

Matia told me: "We are now working on the script for the feature film. All the actors in the original film were unknowns, but I want to use as many of them again as I can. But it would be nice to have some big names, too."

But, even more than that, glittering night at the Oscar presentations, Matia will remember the education learned on the streets on Spanky and Jeff's world.

She explained: "The boys wanted me to know how these people lived. They don't think they have a choice about their lifestyle. That's why the film tried to show them that, say, avenging a murder was not the way to go."

"That you could accomplish more for yourself and your dead friend by holding on to a dream. These people on the streets are not horrible. They aren't lazy and good-for-nothing. For them, life is terrible."

"They live under the stress of the gangs. And drugs are a real dilemma."

"Sometimes daily life just gets to be too much, and people turn to drugs. And in the ghetto, drugs are so accessible. Things get bad and the cops come in. In south central Los Angeles, someone gets killed every day."

So, all over America, Spanky and Jeff's little movie is making more impact than a thousand politician's speeches. And, when the big film is made, the whole world will see the terrible, lethal way in which they live.

A lifestyle which, thanks to a dream, they are just leaving.

Amazing recovery

Dreams meaningful

HOUSEWIFE Sue Armstrong was so badly injured in a car crash that she could scarcely move for nearly two years. But she made an amazing recovery — after having a series of strange dreams.

In them, Sue says, vivid, ghostly figures set to work to heal her. And now she spends her life helping other people to understand the magic of the messages in their own dreams.

She told me: "The answer to everything is in our dreams. We can certainly be healed by them. After the car crash, I was left totally helpless on my back with whiplash injuries. But the dream magic still worked, and I recovered."

"I know my strange dreams played a key part in taking away the pain. And I want to help other people to discover this inner power."

"I think that car crash was fated in a way, because it changed my life so much. I went to the doctor with these terrible injuries, and he just gave me a bottle of pills and a support collar for my neck."

"He said it might be ten years before I was well again. There was nothing the medical profession could do. I was devastated, but I thought the doctor must be wrong. So I threw the pills and collar away, and decided I was going to recover on my own."

Sue was flat out on her back at home for 18 months, hardly able to move because of the pain. Then came the string of colourful, vivid dreams, in which ghostly figures seemed to be healing her.

Sue, aged 42, explained: "Dreams are messages from your subconscious mind. They tell you how to solve problems in your life. All you have to do is learn how to tune into them and to understand the symbols."

Now Sue has become a professional translator of dreams. She charges £25 for a personal reading and £15 for a postal one. And she believes the dreamers get good value for their money.

Sue told me: "People are amazed by the insight I have into their lives, just by studying their dreams. But I don't think there is anything surprising in it. We all have a natural sixth sense, which is revealed to us in our sleep."

"After all, in daily life we are often too concerned about our new car or other material things to listen to the little voice inside."

Sue says people should keep a "dream diary". She advised: "The more you keep private notes on your dreams, the more you will be able to solve your problems. And you will also be able to distinguish between prophetic dreams, symbolic dreams and healing dreams."

Then, as Sue sat in her home in Rustington, Sussex, with her ginger cat asleep on her lap, she analysed a typical dream. She said: "You are driving your car fast along a country road when suddenly an animal runs out in front of you."

"You panic and feel tense, thinking you might have injured it. But the animal runs off unhurt. As you drive on, you look at the sun and blue sky with a feeling of peace of mind and relief."

Sue explained: "The car in this dream represents your own destiny on life's road. The animal reveals unexpected distractions, and speeding shows you to be taking things too much for granted."

"You fear and panic shows that you have been too busy thinking of your own progress to think of others. You may have certain fears which need attending to."

Sue, who lives with her husband Den, went on: "It is time to



Dream analyst Sue Armstrong

watch your motives in life, and to take things more slowly. But the outcome is bright. Every colour in your dream has a different meaning. Yellow means a time of problem-solving, and blue is the most powerful healing colour of all. So the sky and sun in this dream are healing qualities."

Then Sue listed the meanings of many of the things we dream about.

Being nude in a public place. "If you dream about this you are probably frightened of people seeing you at your most glib. It can also indicate an inferiority complex."

Planes, buses, trains — these represent your journey through life.

A baby — new life.

Losing your teeth: "One of the most common dreams. You are frightened of instability or losing confidence."

Falling: "You could be taking a route in life of which you are uncertain."

An actor: "You must beware of a wolf in sheep's clothing."

A bandage: "Protect yourself from ill-health."

Coal — indicates you have enormous potential and the ability to store energy.

Sex: you want to be fulfilled and wanted.

Snow symbolises purity.

A taxi means that others should take the lead, even if the cost to you is high.

A tiger indicates great personal energy and enthusiasm.

A worm points to mysteries and the supernatural.

A rose is a good omen.

Someone in uniform: Sue advises respect for outside ideas, and to try and listen to others.

Waiters — a need to put others first.

War — shows aggression and

anger.

Hymn singing means divine blessings.

A funeral this is the end of a phase in your life.

Dreams can also indicate cravings. When Everest explorer Chris Bonington was trapped in a snow cave during one of his expeditions, with very little to eat, he says he dreamed of colossal breakfasts of bacon, sausage and black pudding.

Sue, who also reads tea leaves and palms, says that our dreams can also foretell the future. She said: "One night I dreamed I was at sea in a fishing boat, with an old man and a child. Suddenly, debris from an exploding rocket came raining down on us."

Three days later, I heard that the American space shuttle had exploded, killing the people on board."

Then I found out that a fisherman in America, who had been on a boat with his son at the time of the disaster, was claiming compensation for damage from the debris. I was amazed. That explained my dream."

Sue went on: "That wasn't my first prophetic dream. Years ago, I dreamed that I was sitting on a fallen tree when an avalanche of mud rolled past. I felt the hysteria as the mud engulfed a building."

The next day, I read in the papers there had been a horrifying disaster at Aberfan in Wales. Schoolchildren had been killed by an avalanche of mud."

Having that dream was more frustrating than frightening. It is terrible to know that a disaster is going to happen — but you have no idea when or where."

That was when a dream turned into a nightmare for Sue. But she prefers to remember the magical ones that set her on a happy new path in life.

Genetic messages changed before reaching destinations

NEW YORK (AP): Researchers have made the startling discovery that some chemical messages sent by genes are changed before they arrive at their destinations, a finding that challenges a central tenet of genetics.

One of the discoverers of the process, Larry Simpson of the University of California, Los Angeles, said it could lead to new treatments for African sleeping sickness, a similar South American ailment called chagas disease and leishmaniasis, a disfiguring skin disease.

biochemist familiar with the research.

"Nobody has the foggiest idea how it works," he said. Researchers do not yet know how widespread RNA editing is or why it evolved, but it appears to be a normal part of the functioning of some genes. In trypanosomes, for example, researchers found that certain genes were missing crucial elements. Yet the elements were present in the genetic messenger chemicals associated with those genes.

RNA editing is the name that researchers gave to the process by which the missing elements were restored.

Although the initial discovery was made four years ago, the existence of the phenomenon has not been widely accepted until now, says another discoverer, Kenneth Stuart of the Seattle Institute for Biomedical Research.

"It was initially met with extreme scepticism," said Stuart, who has occasionally collaborated with Simpson. When Stuart presented some findings to biologists last year, they were "met with disbelief," he said.

Salamanders offer clues to human healing, mystery of cancer

DAYTON, Ohio, (AP): A biologist who studies salamanders says their ability to regenerate limbs could yield new clues to human healing and the mystery of cancer.

Panagiotis Tsonis, who keeps some 200 salamanders in his lab at the University of Dayton in the state of Ohio, says a salamander's limbs are "basically a miniature" of human ones.

"It's exactly the same structure. We have the same bones, the same muscles, everything," he said.

But when a salamander's limb is cut off, he said, the remaining tissues return to an embryonic state and the limb is regenerated in two to three months. It is, he said, a "remarkable phenomenon."

There are a number of people studying limb

regeneration, but Tsonis is one of a few to take a molecular approach, said Dr David Stocum, dean of biology at Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis.

"He's got some very good ideas," Stocum said. "I think he's one of the brighter individuals in the field."

Tsonis, who began his work at La Jolla Cancer Research Foundation in San Diego, California, before coming to Ohio last year, also had found that salamanders "have the capacity to oppose cancer. They don't get cancer. It's very rare."

When he applied cancerous cells to the wounds of salamanders with amputated limbs, the regenerated limb would be missing pieces "but it doesn't lose the limb," he said.

gene has been edited," Stuart said.

"It's been found by too many people in too many places now," said Uhlenbeck, who studies interactions between RNA and proteins. "The reason I like it is that RNA has consistently been putting out surprises for the last couple of years, and this seems to be the next one."

Earlier work on RNA splicing, a different process in which RNA is

altered in accord with genetic instructions, earned a Nobel prize last year for Thomas Cech of the University of Colorado in Boulder and Sidney Altman of the Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut.

RNA editing differs in an important way from RNA splicing in that such a complex mechanism for changing information even existed."

The reason for the initial scepticism was that RNA editing seemed to violate what biologists call the central dogma of genetics, which holds that genetic information contained in the genes passes from the genes, by way of a messenger chemical, to proteins.

The genes, made of DNA, or deoxyribonucleic acid, direct the manufacture of messenger RNA: made of ribonucleic acid. The messenger

RNA travels from the cell nucleus to protein factories called ribosomes, where the RNA directs the manufacture of the myriad proteins the cell needs to survive and reproduce.

In RNA editing, changes are made in the RNA after it is produced by the genes but before it arrives at the ribosomes.

"Imagine a book that has less than half its pages," Stuart said, "and

somehow, upon reading it, all the missing pages get magically put back in. Or you type it into your computer and all the vowels are missing, and when you send it to the printer all the vowels somehow get put back in."

The discovery of RNA editing poses a difficult question. Where are the missing pages — or the missing vowels — coming from?

Some gut feeling there are some related aspects."

Tsonis has been isolating the genes that govern limb regeneration and is attempting to determine gene sequencing. He said he hopes his research will aid in the healing of wounds and tissue regeneration in humans — with an eye toward people somebody being able to regrow amputated fingers.

"I think that's quite possible. I don't see why not. We have the genes. But we have them silenced. They are not expressed."

Tsonis also has been studying gene activation in cartilage, the target tissue of arthritis, to learn how the disease can be regulated.

Arthritis destroys the cartilage and cartilage membranes between bones, causing inflammation and pain.

EVENTS



Kapilku award Certificates of Attendance

THE Association of Filipinos in Kuwait (Kapilku) held the last session of their Computer Course on Friday, at Kabayan Restaurant.

The self-improvement course or the free classes is one of the association's many projects, the objectives being to impart educational and worthy courses and tools for career advancement to all members.

The self-improvement courses is the brain child of Kapilku's President Manny Inserto, a gift to all the members of the association.

Rudy Ocampo, manager of Echo Electronics, explained the mechanics of Data Base III plus, its different commands and features, to the computer students.

Joel Bonacillo, a computer engineer at Kay & Associates also discussed the programme. Jonathan Gonzales, Financial Accountant at the Holiday Inn Hotel and Arlene Bonacillo, a computer programmer, were among Kapilku's computer instructors.

Kapilku's auditor Bida B. Borja was the chairman of the course and Sarah Macarim-bang, Vice-President of Social & Cultural Affairs was the over-all co-ordinator.

Straight after the last session of the course, all the successful participants were awarded a Certificate of Attendance by Manny Inserto assisted by Rory Aurellano, Manager of Kabayan Restaurant and Kapilku officers.

All the certificates for the Hair, Science beauty class, Baking, Cooking and Hotel &

Restaurant Operations Class can be claimed from VP Sarah on 4843447.

The Certificate of Attendance for Tailoring, Bookkeeping and Basic Accounting and the Computer Course will be announced in the later date.

Since the computer course is the association's last project for 1989, Presy Inserto expressed his sincerest thanks to the ambassador & Madame Maunay Moho Tamano, Consul General Olivia Palala, all members and sponsors and supporters who made all Kapilku's projects a grand success.

Pictures show (top) Rudy Ocampo explaining Dbase III plus and (bottom) a group picture, instructors, Inserto and participants.

Kabayan joins in season's spirit

KABAYAN Restaurant, the Filipino Food Station in Kuwait, celebrated the festive season with lots of parlour games, gifts, fun, music and food—all in service of their Kabayans.

Starting from 22 Dec 1989 to 1 Jan 1990, series of surprise games were conducted with the participation of customers, both young and old. Winners were given gift packages donated by the sponsors and suppliers of the restaurant.

On Christmas Day, "Exchange Gifts" already a Kabayan tradition, was held. Customers were asked to bring a gift to the restaurant during a specified period, the Gifts were numbered and deposited at the restaurant. During "Exchange Gift Night", the participants were asked to draw numbers to claim their gifts. This activity, which is very popular in the Philippines, has elicited quite a good response from the customers.

As the climax of its Holiday Extravaganza, Kabayan held its New Year raffle draw last Monday, 1 Jan 1990. Valuable prizes were raffled off donated by Wahid Bitar of 7-Up Bottling Co., Al Najdian Trading Co., Ambassador Stores, Al Bulbul Stores, Far East Bank & Trust Co., Al Homazi Food Co., Ayyad Trading Co. and Oriental Trading.



New Year raffle draw winner, Lady Seriosa receiving her prize from Bong Vergara, Kabayan Restaurant Manager.

Following lucky winners may claim their prizes anytime at the new Kabayan Restaurant:

1. Lady Seriosa, 2. Rani Javines, 3. Boni Villas, 4. Thelma Solis, 5. Imelda Antonio, 6. Tony Morales, 7. Imelda Antonio, 8. Rogelio Restor, 9. Avelino Men-

oza, 10. Bonifacia Alcan, 11. Perfecto Carillo, 12. Perfecto Agas Jr., 13. Ed Carranza, 14. Arnold Navarro, 15. Lito Mercado.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

MORNING PERIOD

9.30 The Opening and Holy Quran
9.40 Sabah Al Kher News and Variety
9.50 Cartoon Serial
10.15 Magazine D'Actualite (repetition)
10.30 Toyour Billal Ajneir Arabic Serial (part 5)
11.45 Sabah Al Kher News and Variety
12.15 Al Malqout: Local Weekly Serial (part 1), starring Abdul Redha, Mohammed Jaber and Abdullah Kharbit

12.30 News Summary
12.35 Holy Quran and Closedown

EVENING PERIOD

4.00 The Opening and Holy Quran
4.15 The World Today via Satellite (repetition)
4.45 Beren: Cartoon serial
5.15 Mama Anisa and the Children: Local Children's Serial, prepared by Samiya Mohammed and presented by Mama Anisa
5.45 Night Chemists, Airlines and Official Advertisements
6.00 Imam Mohammed Abdo: Historical Serial (part 9)
7.00 Varieties
7.15 Holy Quran and Science: Religious Programme, prepared and presented by Dr Ahmad Shawqi Ibrahim
8.00 Cultural Programme (part 1)
8.30 Good Evening and local news



The Beachcombers, KTV-2, 6.30.

9.00 News in Arabic
9.45 Omsiyat Al Ethneen: Local weekly programme, prepared and presented by Mohammed Al Barjes
10.15 Ghadan Tushroq Al Shams: Arabic Serial (part 7)
11.15 Al Mawed: Variety Programme (part 1), prepared and presented by Tawfeeq Khallaf
12.15 News Summary
12.20 The World Today via Satellite
12.45 Holy Quran and Closedown.

KTV 2

6.00 Opening announcement and Holy Quran
6.10 The New Three Stooges. A cartoon

series for children

6.30 The Beachcombers "Save the Persephone". When an instant bank official arrives to seize the "Persephone" because of an outstanding loan payment, desperate Nick takes off in the boat Relic and the banker takes up the chase.

7.00 Documentary "The Great Rift".

8.00 News in English

8.30 Wildside "The Well Known". The daring adventures of five residents of the town of Wildside who take the law into their hands to preserve peace and tranquility in the lawless territory.

9.30 Coach "Boss Weekend". Hayden steam looses the match and their coach becomes ill-tempered.

10.00 Q.E.D. A look at unexplained accidents of spontaneously self-burning persons which occurred frequently over the last fifty years. An attempt to find a reasonable answer.

10.30 Bestseller "Act of Betrayal". A member of the Irish secret army is arrested after an attack made by the army where he confesses and co-operates with the British authorities who, in turn, promise to help him....

12.00 News in brief

12.15 Magazine D'Actualite.

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Seminar

THE seminar at the DAA, on Arabic and European Art in The Light of Zodiacal Symbolism has been postponed. It will be given during the period Feb 11 - March 11, 1990. Morning sessions on Sunday and Tuesday 11.00 - 12.30 am or evening session on Sunday and Tuesday 6.00 - 7.30 pm. Registration may be made by phoning the Dar Al Athar Al Islamiyyah, Tel: 2430826, 2453259.

Tribal Rugs & Oriental Prints

THE Sultan Gallery will be holding a Tribal Rugs and Oriental Prints exhibition starting Saturday Dec 23 until Jan 15. On Saturday, the Gallery will be open from 5.00 pm to 8.00 pm. Else, it will be open from 9.30 am to 12.30 noon and 5.00 pm to 8.00 pm. For more information contact: 2421951.

Hobby centre

A NEW 8 week course in Jewellery and Design making — For more details call: Telephone: 5618847 or 5317354.

SOCIAL

Danielle Coffee Morning

SINCE the Meridian regretted the invitation, our next coffee morning will take place at the SAS Hotel on Sunday, January 7 at 9.30. For further information call Inge on 3727688 ext 207.

Kalpak's Drama Competition
KERALA Arts and Literature Promotion Association of Kuwait (Kalpak) is conducting a Malayalam One Act Play Competition at Indian Arts Circle on 9th February 1990.

Konkani Drama

THE New Goans Overseas Association is pleased to announce Menino De Bandar's "Sousarant Astana Diat" a Konkani play which will be held in the Indian Arts Circle (Funaites) on the 16th of February 1990. The cast all from Goa includes M. Boyer, Felecy, Josephine, Betty Alvares, Tita, Junior Rod, Carlos, Rosario Dias, C. D'Silva, John de Parra and Menino de Bandar.

The Carnival Nite

"THE Entertainers" proudly announces for the first time in Kuwait "The Carnival Nite" which is scheduled to be held at the Ramada Al Salam Hotel's Le Mirage main ballroom on 22nd February 1990. Be sure to be there with all your ght and glamorous costumes to witness this traditional event. Top Ranks and Perfect Strangers will rhythm out their best musical performance for this occasion.

Contact

THE next meeting of Contact, the ladies information group, will be held on January 13 at 10 am at the Messilah Beach Hotel. Their chef will be giving a demonstration. Newcomers welcome. For further information call 5388105 or 4874513.

German-Speaking Cultural Association

THE next coffee morning, on the first Sunday of each month like always, will be held on Jan 7, 10 am, at the Kuwait International Hotel, Old Failaka Room. All German-speakers, particularly newcomers, welcome.

II Annual one act Play Competition

INDIAN Arts Circle announces the II Annual One Play Competition to be held during Eid holidays in April, 1990. The competition is open to Plays in any Indian language including English. Awards shall include Best Play (1st, 2nd & 3rd), Best Director, Best Actor & Actress, Best Child Actor, Best Stage Setting and Best Acting Performance from each team. Registration form with rules & regulations are available from Indian Arts Circle office at Funaites. Last date of submitting registration form with required details is 28th February, 1990. Please contact IAC office: (Tel: 3904817) for further details. All Indian associations engaged in theatrical activities are requested to join.

Saz Aur Awaz

FEB 2: Saz Aur Awaz, one of the leading Indian musical groups of Kuwait present their fourth musical programme entitled Bhule Bisle Geet. The show includes Hindi film songs at the Indian Arts Circle, Funaites on February 2, 1990. Passes will be available shortly.

People's Trust Club

JAN 11: People's Trust Club welcomes you to A day of Your Life at Ramada Al Salam (Marriott) Hotel, New Ballroom from 10.30 pm onwards. Nimble feet, hungry palate, perfect blend of music and style. A get-together with buffet. Stepping Stones and Top Ranks are ready to provide music of 1990s. People's Trust apologises for the postponement of this show last month.

Ramada Al Salam

GRAND Indian Food Festival from January 21-26. Display stalls open to Indian companies and individuals. Contact Clifton or Siddiq on 4835344.

British Council

THE Scarlet and the Black — 137 min. Saturday, 13 Jan and Sunday, 14 Jan at 6.30 pm. This is the remarkable story of an Irish priest, Monsignor Hugh O'Flaherty who founded an organisation to help escaping Allied prisoners of war. Features a brilliant cast: Gregory Peck, Christopher Plummer and John Gielgud. Admission is free but please telephone to reserve seats: 2515512, 2533204, 2533227.

Study the Humanities and Social Sciences in Britain. For more information on degree-level studies of these subjects, please visit The British Council Education Office on Monday and Tuesday, 15 and 16 January, 9.00 am to 12.30 pm and 5.00 to 8.00 pm.

Like a Hurricane!!

SEVENTH Sky's upcoming Rock concert at Al Andalus cinema on 15th & 16th February, 1990. We are looking for voluntary helpers and also an additional male & female vocalist. Ring 5748476 or 2543219.

Ladies International League

JAN 8th: 7 pm. Please come and enjoy the Ladies International League's programme for January, presented by the Persian Carpet Museum. Afterwards, you will have time to socialise with your friends. Sheraton Hotel, Ballroom A. Entry fee.

All that Jazz again

REMY D'Mello presents the "Best of Jazz" in Kuwait with Jack Boub, the Istiqal Jazz Quintet and the Kuwait Happy Times Jazz Orchestra. It will be held today at 7 pm at the Gulf English School. For details and reservations please call 5335068, 5623194 or 5389219.

SPORTS

Rothmans Gold Cup Finals

THE finals of the Rothmans' Gold Cup Football Tournament organised by Salceet United Sports Centre, the sports wing of the weekend club, will take place on the Sour Grounds on Friday, January 12 at 9.00 am. Between Incredible Sports Club and Goan Sporting. Aref Essa, manager of Rothmans, will give away the trophies. All are cordially invited.

Ballet

STEPS Ballet School commences its new term. Jan 1990 registration is now open. Sat-Wed in the Kuwait English School, Salwa from 3-7 pm. Call 5386481 between 9-12 noon for more information. (For girls only 4-15 years).

Aerobics

AEROBICS starts on Sunday 7th at 6.30 pm at the Messilah Beach Hotel.

● All entries for the What's On Column can be sent by telex (22332) to Events Section or hand delivered daily, except Thursdays, from 12 noon to 4 pm, at the Arab Times Office, in Shuwalkh. Photographs will also be considered for publication. Phoned-in entries will not be accepted.

Kuwait City
Cairo Pharmacy
Fahed Al Salem Street
Ibn Rushd Pharmacy
Duaqi Souk
Hawalli and Nagra
Kuwait Pharmacy

Quotaibah Street, Nagra
Salmiyah and Rumithaya
Nahda Pharmacy
Baghdad Street, Salmiya

Fahad and Ahmad
Sheba Pharmacy

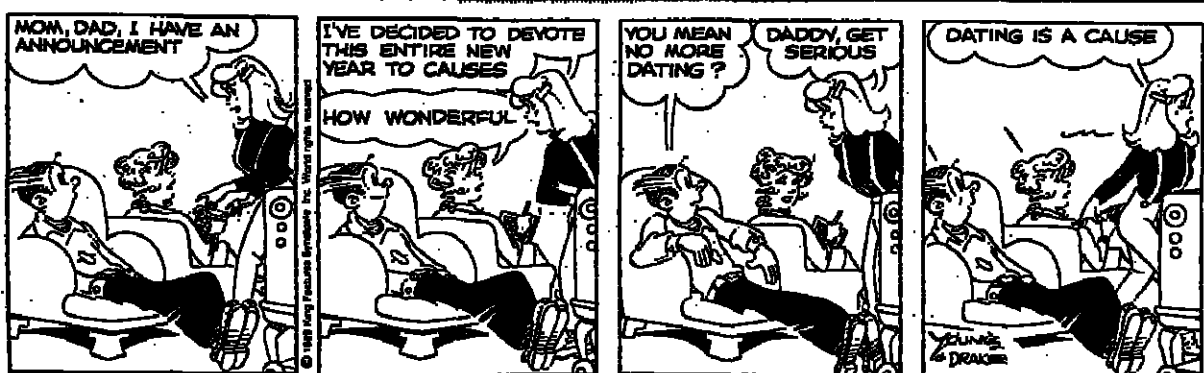
Fahad
Khalifa
Hayat Pharmacy
Ibn Zuhair Street
Jahra
Najah Pharmacy
Fourth Area



Philippine community day celebrations

Kapilku President Manny Inserto, awards a television set to Dori Quintana, the winner in the raffle in the Philippine Community Day celebrations. Also seen in the picture are Ric (Elvis) Galang and Bennie (Mat Monro) Perez members of the association.

BLONDIE



HAGAN THE HORRIBLE



ACQUA CRUM



BEETLEMAN



THE WIZARD OF ID



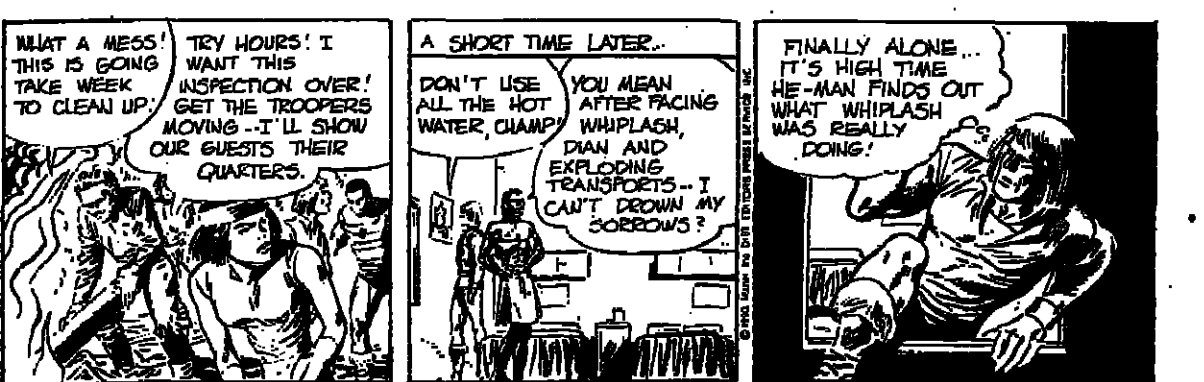
ANDY CAPP



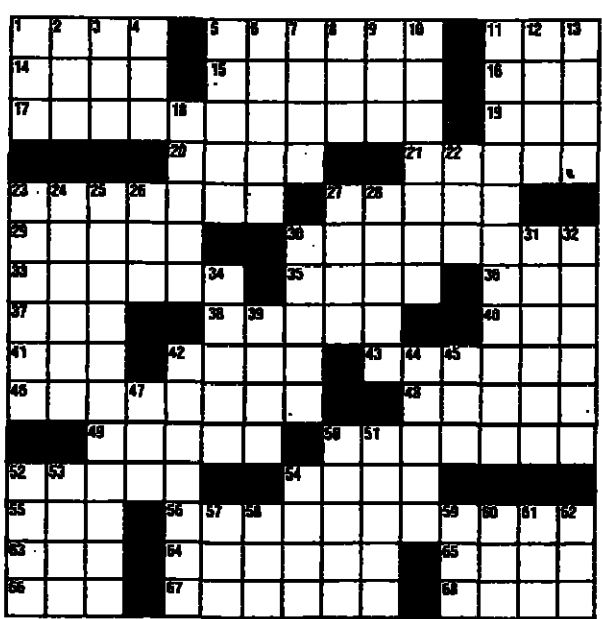
B.C.



HE-MAN



TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS
- 1 Ballet band
 - 5 More trite
 - 11 "Evita" role
 - 14 Time out of mind
 - 15 Make good
 - 16 Take it on the —
 - 17 Laundry times
 - 19 Belief
 - 20 Those in favor
 - 21 Full of ginger
 - 23 Zest
 - 27 Move at rush-hour pace
 - 29 Visual
 - 30 Fright films
 - 33 Limited
 - 35 Like a violin string, perhaps
 - 36 Soak flax
 - 37 Plaything
 - 38 Gives off
 - 40 Bad Ems, for one
 - 41 Curve
 - 42 Name for a Dublin lass
 - 43 Film starring Fred and Ginger
 - 46 In power
 - 48 Trusting
 - 49 Famous
 - 50 Map-maker's tool
 - 52 Lu-Pone of Broadway
 - 54 Name for a French poodle
 - 55 — Town; Wilder play
 - 56 Printer's separators
 - 63 Silkworm
 - 64 Allow
 - 65 Stain
 - 66 Highland, head, cover
- DOWN
- 1 Even, at the Masters
 - 2 Aloha wreath
 - 3 Molecule part
 - 4 Printer's measures
 - 5 Holy Comb. form
 - 6 See if it fits
 - 7 Theater lights
 - 8 Dogpatch sobriquet
 - 9 Holiday precursor
 - 10 Esteem
 - 11 Tail-masted vessel
 - 12 Hinged strap
 - 13 Oscar's cousin
 - 18 "liad" and others
 - 22 Cartoon cry
 - 23 Well hanging
 - 24 Place in proximity
 - 25 Works out
 - 26 Deer —
 - 27 Frizzle
 - 28 Shake awake
 - 30 Rock star and actor
 - 31 Do road work
 - 32 — Island, N.Y.
 - 34 Strange
 - 39 Boggling or blowing beginner
 - 42 Lured
 - 44 Walking — (elated)
 - 45 Mod's digs
 - 47 Obtained
 - 50 Rainsack
 - 51 Propose
 - 52 Heine or Hardy
 - 53 Nimbus
 - 54 Watch holders
 - 57 Trois — deux
 - 58 Cure
 - 59 Shoshonean
 - 60 Cover
 - 61 Wrap up
 - 62 Miss Piggy's pad

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

TALCS CEDE SPED
ARIOT ALUM TIRE
BUZZARDSBAYONNE
SMA GORE CARTER
ONDE DIRE
AROMAS BEAD SST
CARAT PEST CATO
CRATER LAKEHURON
RETE EATS ORALE
ARE OATS GUSHES
STERED CAGE BAA
HUDSONBAYPIGS
OLIO BASE LITUP
TEEN RITES YEESES

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
BREAK A RULE TWICE

North-South vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♠ 7 2
♥ A K J
♦ 8 3
♣ K J 10 9 4 3

WEST
♠ 10 9 6 4
♥ 7 6
♦ A J 10 9 6
♣ A 6

EAST
♠ Q 5 3
♥ 9 8 5 3
♦ K Q 5 2
♣ 7 5

SOUTH
♠ A K J 8
♥ Q 10 4 2
♦ 7 4
♣ Q 8 2

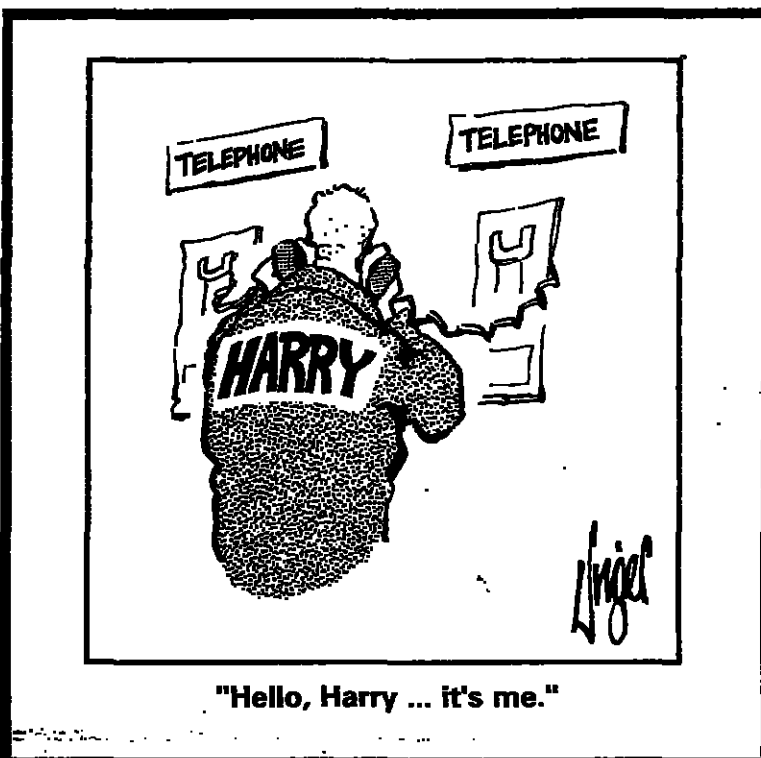
The bidding:
North East South West
1 ♠ 1 ♦ 1 ♠ 2 ♦
3 ♠ 3 ♦ 3 ♠ Pass
Pass Pass
Opening lead: Ace of ♠

the East hand, let alone twice! But tournament players these days are a law unto themselves. South's double was "negative"—a takeout for the other two suits.

With clubs divided 2-2 and the defenders thus unable to obtain a ruff, it would seem declarer need not lose more than two diamonds and a club. Indeed, that was often the case in the Blue Ribbon Pairs Championship. But watch what happened at the table where Mexico's George Rosenkranz was the declarer at three hearts, with Canadians Haig Tchamitch and John Gowdy sitting East-West.

The defenders started with the ace and king of diamonds, then broke a cardinal rule by playing another diamond, yielding a ruff-sluff. However, declarer was not overjoyed by this development. After ruffing in dummy, South led a club to the queen and West's ace. Now another diamond, giving a second ruff-sluff, set up a trump trick for the defenders.

Declarer did as well as possible by ruffing in dummy, cashing the ace, then coming to hand with the ace of spades to draw trumps. But East had a trump winner and declarer was held to nine tricks.



YOUR STARS

Aries
March 21 - April 20

There will be lots to do but do not panic. Just get on with it. If you are not sure you are doing the right thing, try another track. Avoid eating more than you know you should. Be on your guard.

Cancer
June 21 - July 20

You are all too liable to become fascinated by something of no more than secondary importance. You should show a little more tolerance towards an acquaintance who is not doing what you think is the right thing. Be tolerant.

Libra
Sept. 23 - Oct. 23

You will not feel sure you have done the right thing, but there is still time to get back on the right course. Your lucky numbers are 10 and 16. You will earn how to do something conventional better. You should make sure you are not late for an appointment. Be respectful.

Capricorn
Dec. 21 - Jan. 19

You have a lot to do and would do well to get on with without allowing yourself to be distracted. You will be able to make up a quarrel with a friend and should do so. Do not try to use force where persuasion has failed. Be true to your word.

Taurus
April 21 - May 20

You will be able to overcome some doubts. You will be able to do something you have been looking forward to. However, you must make sure you do not neglect your chores. Be tactful.

Leo
July 21 - Aug. 23

You will have some good ideas but perhaps the timing is not quite right. You should have just a little more faith in yourself. You should make sure you do not keep others waiting. Be credible.

Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 22

Not everything will be quite to your liking so concentrate on what is. Unless you think you are too old to learn. A little while spent tidying up is time well spent. Be resourceful.

Aquarius
Jan. 20 - Feb. 19

You will not be in the best of moods and should try to have a good laugh at yourself. Make sure you get all the rest you need as they were. Undertake repairs only if you do not want to miss a good opportunity. Be loyal.

Gemini
May 21 - June 20

Something that has been puzzling you will now become clear. Do not spend too much time dealing with secondary matters. Guard against exaggerations. Be alert.

Virgo
Aug. 23 - Sept. 22

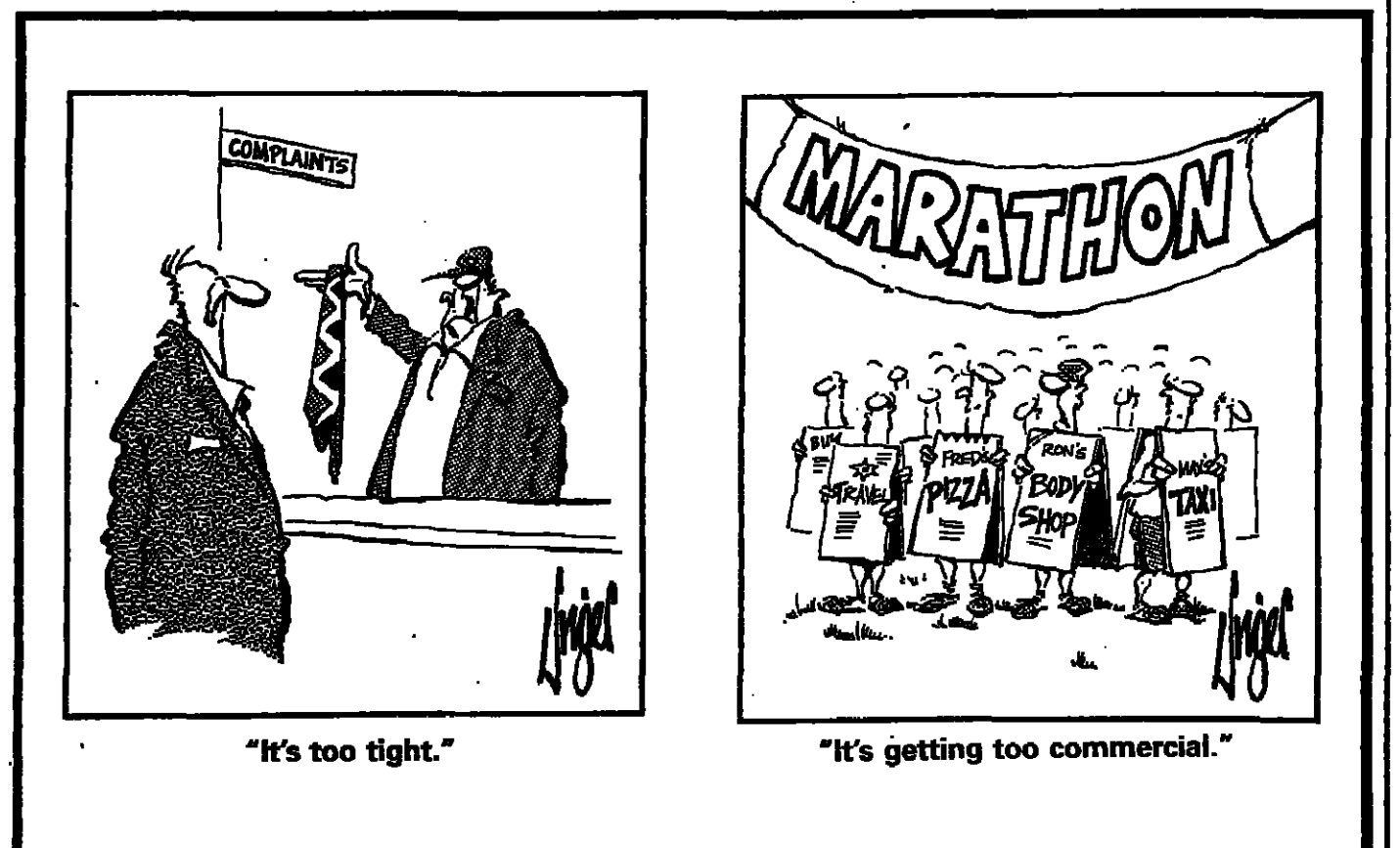
A letter you have been expecting will be delayed; wait a little longer before sending a reminder. You will feel somewhat more sure of yourself. Do not give away something told to you in confidence. Be generous.

Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21

You will be able to overcome a certain amount of confusion. And you should try to keep things simple henceforth. Try to avoid making others envious of you. Be firm.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20

You are liable to mislay things, so do take a bit more care. Do not take too much for granted and do not rely on things being as they were. Undertake repairs only if you really know how. Be magnanimous.



SNIPPETS

15 Quezon City cheat: At least 15 business firms in Quezon City cheated the city government of some P 100 million in taxes from 1987, sources learned.

A report by the tax research team of the joint Quezon City government and the Philippine Association of Revenue Examiners (Parex) and Tax Assistance and Information Campaign Office (Taico) created by Mayor Brigidio Simon Jr showed that several big companies in the city did not pay the correct business and service taxes to the city government in violation of Metro Manila Commission Ordinance No 82-03.

The names of the delinquent business firms were withheld pending results of actual investigation. These firms are composed of shopping malls, supermarkets and manufacturers.

The back taxes of the said firms were computed and assessed based on their declared gross sales per city hall records.

The tax office tax office cited a company in Districts 1 and 4 in the city which have tax deficiencies amounting to P63 million in 1987. Another firm in District 4 has back taxes of P 18 million, the tax group said.

Marijuana found in Pasay letters: Pasay Central Post Office employees found marijuana in four letters addressed to different people in Kuwait.

"Pumutok iyong dulo ng isang envelope," Airmail Distribution Centre chief Alfredo Estrera said when asked how they discovered the dope.

Each letter contained 40 grams of high-grade marijuana, Estrera said.

Three of the envelopes were addressed to Rody Morales (from Tony Morales); Romel Morak (from Arlyn Morales) and to Ruben Canlas, all of the New Maternity Hotel II, P.O. Box 25144, Safat.

The fourth envelope came from Giegie Santo and was addressed to Eri Santos, c/o the Kabaya Restaurant at P.O. Box 25669.

All of the letters had no senders' address, Estrera said. These could have come from only one person.

Girl sells 4 classmates to sex dens: Quezon City policemen tracked down and arrested a female senior student of GSIS High School who was accused of selling four classmates to a prostitution house in Olongapo City.

Police identified the suspect as Loida Yanguas, 16, of 96 General Ave St Project 8, Quezon City. She is now detained at the detachment. Investigators said Yanguas convinced her classmates Grace Balido, 18; Maryjane Palima, 15; Sheila Marie Gorsepe, 16; and Rosita to go with her to Olongapo.

The four were promised a good job at the American Naval base in Olongapo but instead found themselves in a fresh joint believed operated by an American tourist.

The victims told police probes that Yanguas delivered them to the owner of the Allens Club in Barrio Baredo, Purok 4, Olongapo City in exchange for P3,000.

They added that Yanguas returned to Manila, leaving them behind with the club owner who is still unidentified.

The victims said they were instructed by the club owner to dance for several men, mostly American sailors.

With the arrest of Yanguas, the victims were rescued by a team composed of patrolmen Pablo Dadiyas, Edwin Catis and Simeon Morales who were sent to Olongapo by Capt. Arturo Navarette.

At the police station, Yanguas was positively identified by the suspects as the same person who deceived them.

Driver's slay suspect nabbed: Caloocan City policemen arrested a construction worker suspected to be one of six robbers who killed a driver on Oct 22.

Cesar Amando was surprised by policemen at work at the Manila Marinas Baytown Homeowners Association in Paranaque.

Amando, 27, of 828 Dagupan St, Tondo, Manila, was arrested by Pfc Ernesto Bunag and Patrolmen Jojo Peniano and Manny Macadagang after a witness pointed to him as one of the six men who killed Roland Nunez, 35, of Libis, Baeza, Caloocan City.

During investigation, Amando admitted that he was with the group but he denied stabbing Nunez.

He named his companions as Norman Olisario, Jerry Irata, Pedy Masala, Juanito Fabillonier and certain George all of Libis, Baeza, Caloocan City.

Charges of homicide with robbery were filed against Amando by Caloocan police.

Four charged with kidnap: Kidnapping and robbery charges have been filed before the provincial prosecutor's office of Trece Martires City, Cavite by the National Bureau of Investigation against four men who held with three others for a week a construction company owner and his nephew.

Danilo Robledo, Roberto Casubuan, Fausto Vallejo and Renato Martinez with a certain Cris, one Mike and a Butog were involved in the kidnap of Chery Cervantes and his nephew Romeo de la Cruz, said NBI anti-organized crime division chief Santiago Toledo.

Dela Cruz was fetched by Cervantes on Aug 19 from his house to inspect their road construction projects in Lucena City, Quezon.

They boarded a blue Ford Cortina with plate No. MWP-812. In Binan, Laguna, Robledo joined them and they went to Barangay Paliparan in Dasmariñas, Cavite.

There, Martinez appeared and poked a gun at Cervantes. Dela Cruz and Cervantes were hand-cuffed and hogtied and brought to a hut guarded by Robledo, Casubuan, Vallejo and the three others.

They forced Cervantes to sign a P10,000 cheque which they encashed in a Laguna bank. The suspects also negotiated with the family of Cervantes for a P100,000-ransom.

In the morning of Aug 22, Dela Cruz escaped, leaving Cervantes who was too weak to walk. Dela Cruz went to the NBI.

The NBI raided the suspects' hideout on Aug 27 and found Cervantes alone.

Acting on a tip, however, the NBI arrested Robledo and Vallejo in Lucena City with the help of PC soldiers in Camp Nakar.

Pusher couple: A couple long wanted by the police for selling prohibited drugs were arrested in Barangay Potrero in Malabon.

Alejandro Mendoza, 61, and his wife, Josie, 31, both of Banana Road, Barangay Potrero, are now detained at the Malabon police.

Police seized from them 1.2 kilos of dried marijuana leaves.

Police investigator Cpl Eddie Galang said the couple sold to a policeman who posed as buyer some 100 grammes of marijuana in front of Sto Nino Chapel along Banana Road.

Malabon police chief Col Danilo Cordero said the couple had been wanted for the past several years.

The couple refused to talk to reporters.

Bailed out, 2 men go back to jueteng: Three jueteng collectors resumed their illegal job hours after they were freed on bail by Batangas City policemen who arrested them.

Danilo Antives, 33, of Barangay Libjo; Mario Reyes, 34, of RR Station, both of Batangas City, and Ernesto Mendoza, 33, of Barangay Sambat, San Pascual town were caught in the act on Vergara St.

Cpl Mario Alvarez and Pfc Pablo Agtay seized lists of bettors and other jueteng paraphernalia from them.

Higher meat prices: Expect the prices of meat to rise next month because of a very low supply of corn feeds, hog raisers informed a House body.

Soledad Agbayani, president of the Association of Hog Raisers, explained that the increases in the prices of meat could not be prevented this coming Christmas season because of a serious shortage in corn production in the country.

The hog raisers urged the government for an additional importation of corn claiming the 110,000 metric tons of corn imported early this year from Thailand was not enough.

Robbers attack old caretaker: An old man in serious condition with wounds inflicted by nine men who robbed his employer of some P100,000 worth of jewels and other valuables.

Wounded was Luis Noguera, of 167 L. Lupa St, Sangandaan, said Caloocan police investigation chief Maj. Carito Mallari.

Noguera was found in toilet by Evelyn Enriquez, 22. He was wounded and bleeding.

Theft and robbery section chief Sgt Teodoro Arinas said the robbery happened at the jewellery store owned by Demetria Unciano.

Musical chairs: Lim retires, Alano quits and Carpio sulks

NBI: the end of a professional and just investigation

ACTING Immigration Commissioner Bienvenido Alano resigned from the Commission on Immigration and Deportation shortly after President Aquino asked him to turn over his post to Director J. Antonio Carpio of the National Bureau of Investigation.

Carpio himself was reportedly not inclined to accept the CID position and sources said he may retire from public service in disgust. He was being moved to the CID apparently to make way for the appointment as NBI director of Maj Gen. Alfredo Lim, the Manila police chief who is retiring today.

In a still another development, sources said Metro Manila Gov. Efrén Cruz will be relieved of his position and will revert to his concurrent position as head of the Presidential Management Staff. The same sources said the position will be filled by Metro Manila mayors on a rotation basis.

Alano was summoned by the President Tuesday and offered him his previous position of associate commissioner. But Alano said he was quitting government service because of his "disappointment."

Alano was invited by former CID chief Miriam Defensor-Santiago as one of her associate commissioners in charge of intelligence operation and finance. He took over the CID post in an acting capacity last July 5 on the recommendation of Santiago when she was appointed as secretary of agrarian reform.

He offered to quit his post as

associate commissioner in December last year for a well-paying job in a foreign based firm but was advised by Santiago to stay in government a little longer.

Asked if his relief had something to do with his former affiliation with the Ram, Alano said: "I don't think so. But if my sincerity is being doubted, then I will not stay any longer."

But sources said Alano's relief as CID boss was a political move in response to a request from a "top architect" of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino who wanted Alano out because "they (LIP members) were never comfortable with Alano because of his RAM background."

Alano said he severed his ties with the Ram when he retired from the Navy. "I've been out of the military and I have no direct involvement with them," he said.

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Montano would recommend to President Aquino that the WPD be returned to the command of Capcol. Filler said.

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But sources said Alano's relief as CID boss was a political move in response to a request from a "top architect" of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino who wanted Alano out because "they (LIP members) were never comfortable with Alano because of his RAM background."

Alano said he severed his ties with the Ram when he retired from the Navy. "I've been out of the military and I have no direct involvement with them," he said.

With Lim's retirement the Western Police District will be reverted to the command of Capital Region Command Metropolitan Police Force chief Brig Gen. Alexander Aguirre, according to Col Alfredo Filler, chief of staff of Constabulary chief Maj Gen Ramon Montano.

Montano would recommend to President Aquino that the WPD be returned to the command of Capcol. Filler said.

Earlier, the WPD was put under the direct supervision of Montano as director general of the Integrated National Police following Lim's promotion to two-star rank.

He offered to quit his post as

associate commissioner in December last year for a well-paying job in a foreign based firm but was advised by Santiago to stay in government a little longer.

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Earlier, the

Rowena Moran: in love, once

SHE was the calendar girl of 1988, having looked at you from the calendars last year of San Miguel, PNO and Coppertone. She could have been another superstar in the making with her beauty, face and figure, and having started as leading lady of DaKing Ronnie Poe in *Kapag Puno na ang Salop*, she could have dozens of offers after that. But she opted for a quite life, more on commercial and print modelling.

"It's so magulo in showbusiness and plenty of controversies. Besides, in commercial and print modelling, it takes only two or three days while in the movies, it takes more than a month. My priority is not acting. I'd rather find a stable job perhaps at the Department of Tourism," Rowena Moran nicknamed Weng, explains.

Weng is graduate of tourism and travel service at Centro Escolar University. She followed that up with an A.B. in Mass Communications at St. Joseph's College.

"I'd like to be in the newspaper field, a staff writer or anything akin to it," she says that if offers for commercial modelling are scarce, she'd go into newscasting or in the field of advertising. Whichever way she goes into, Weng will succeed, for she's the type whose relaxed charms augur well for any field she chooses to join.

Weng has finished modelling for the brochure of the Philippine Air Lines for this year. She was also the girl who loved and lost and loved again with Laurence Pineda in the San Miguel commercial three years ago. That was when Ronnie Poe who was looking for a new face for his leading lady, spotted her. He lost no time in contacting San Miguel and persuaded Weng to join the movies. But after that, she declined several offers which came her way.

"I would rather model for business firms like shoe stores, fashion shops and boutiques like Ohrelle. That way, there are no intrigues. To tell you the truth, I'm rather sensitive about things being said or printed about me." It was a pity that *Pinoy Talk* was shelved because Weng was one of the hosts there. She hopes that it would be revived.

If ever she'd go back to showbusiness, what role would she like to play?

"The ones that Boots Anson Koa or Susan Roces are delineating."

This just proves that Weng, although belonging to our new generation, is still old-fashioned regarding her views on love and marriage.

"I'd rather be an old maid than fall in love or be linked to a married man (knock on wood)," she declares. "It's not that I'm *philkan* but there is no happiness in that kind of situation. Besides, you're making someone unhappy and if there are children, the worst is yet to come. I believe in the Confucian adage, not to do unto others what you do not want others want to do to you."

Weng says she's not in a hurry even if suitors are a mile long. She's taking her time choosing the right guy who is secure in his job and is responsible enough to start a family. He may not be good-looking but he should have a pleasant enough personality.

"That's not too much to ask," she says. "But I'd like to get married at the age of 27 and perhaps the guy should be from 30 to 35 years of age. At that time, we both know what we're plunging into. Marriage is not just swimming in a pool or sea and after you get tired, you swim back to shore or get out of the pool. For me, marriage is for keeps."

Like other modern girls, would she marry for money or love?

"Some people say that too much money is evil. It is not. But it is the way it is spent and for what purpose."

"If one marries for money or wealth, what happens when the money is gone? Will the relationship get sour? I'm sure it will. It's different when love and understanding are the sole reasons for marriage because, then, both of you will strive hard to make a go at the relationship since each one does not want to disappoint the other. That's because there is love in the heart. One tries to please the loved one in whatever capacity she or he has."

Does she approve of teenage marriages?

"In general, I don't. But there



are teenagers who are matured in their ways and who are responsible enough to raise a family. I mean, girls. But boys...no. There are even men who are still boys, who are still immature in their thinking. Can these boys take care of a family well enough? I don't think so."

How many times has she been in love?

"Only once, but we are still

friends. We parted because we felt that we're not yet ready for anything, not even for a love relationship. It was a mutual feeling. Who knows one day we might be together again. But both of us have no regrets. We're still spreading our wings, so to speak, in different paths of life."

Right now, Weng, in her early thirties is still in the throes of planning her future. She'd like a

more stable job than just modelling. So there you are, men. Here's Rowena Moran who'll make a success of whatever she undertakes — modelling, acting, newscasting, advertising, etc., aside from being a whiz at cooking her specialties like adobo, kare kare, or rellenong bangus. But you'll have to wait to pop the question. With a girl like Rowena, the waiting will be worth it.

Maricel and Edu Off to a new start

FRESH from their 'delayed' honeymoon trip in the Caribbean, controversial husband and wife Edu Manzano and Maricel Soriano are back into the limelight, though not necessarily with a vengeance. Maricel has just signed another contract with ABS-CBN channel 2 for the third season of her drama series, the top-rated *Maricel Soriano Drama Special*, while Edu is taking his time drawing out plans for possible TV production ventures. He also has put up a laser printing business in the States, which the couple hopes to be operational by January.

"I'll take one thing at a time," says Maricel of her comeback bid. "Pero sa totoo lang, inuupisahan ko ito, gusto ko, matapos na agad."

"Plano namin ni Dudu (Edu's nickname) bumalik sa States next month. Iba na ang takbo ng utak namin ngayon. We channel all our energies sa business, para just in case, walang problema."

Asked how she perceives getting back into the

limelight, Maricel replies: "As much as possible, sana, wala na ang intriga. Pero sa showbiz, some people thrive on intrigues, on controversies. Kung wala kang intriga, igagawa ka, mappilitan ka namang sumagot if only to defend yourself. Pero ngayon, okay lang. Basta ako, nandito ako to work. Kung anumang nanginisip ng ibang tao, sa kanila na 'yon. Behala sila!"

Aiko turns 14. Last December 16, teenstar Aiko Melendez turned a year older, but it looks the young actress wasn't so keen on celebrating her birthday with a big party that befits her showbiz status oh yes, being Regal Films' strongest bet for superstardom in the 90's.

"For me kasi, I don't like big celebrations," reasons Aiko. "I'm not that popular naman na I celebrated it in a disco. I celebrated it with my special friends. So, ayoko na 'yung maraming etching-etching, disco-disco pa. Gusto ko 'yung maski birthday ko, gawin naman nilang personal."

FILMFEST UPDATE. Only 12 movie outfits signified their intention to join the Metro Manila Film Festival. Of the 12, three are likely to back out, leaving only nine to complete for the six slots (official entries). Now, the big three — Viva, Regal, and Seiko — are more or less assured of slots. The remaining three slots are likely to be filled in by Golden Lions, D'Wonder, and Filmstar.

Viva's likely to field *Imortal* topbilled by Vilma Santos and Boyet de Leon, under Eddie Garcia's direction. Seiko was planning to enter either *Kung Tapos Na Ang Kailanman* (by Lino Brocka) or *Laurice Guillen's Sa Akin Ang Bukas*, but the latest word is Seiko's entering the *Tomas Karingal* film, starring John Regal and Eddie Garcia, directed by Jun Posadas. Regal's entry is *Last Two Minutes*, directed by Mike Relon Makiling and starring the Regal bagets Zoren Legaspi, Jeffrey Santos, Aljon Jimenez, plus Aiko Melendez, Ruffa Gutierrez, and Carmina Villarroel and basketball superstars Alvin Patrimonio, Jerry Codinera, and Paul Alvarez.

Outside the big three, Golden Lions' prospective entry is a Ramon Revilla starrer, *Ang Mahiwagang Daigdig* Ni Elias Paniki, written and directed by Carlo Caparas. D'Wonder's entering a true-to-life story, *Irosin*, which is about the encounter between the military and the rebels, with Anthony Alonzo, Aga Muhlach, and Ricky Davao in the lead. Totoy Buenaventura directs *Irosin*. Another movie intended for the young market is Filmstar's *Blonds* which is partly animated megged by Beboing Osorio.

Movie, TV star jailed for estafa

MOVIE and TV personality Deborah Sun was convicted by a Quezon City Regional Trial Court of estafa on six counts filed against her by an actress and her sister-in-law.

RTC Judge Delilah Vidallon Magtolis meted out a five-year prison term to Sun (Jean Louise Salvador in real life) for violation of Batas Pambansa 22, otherwise known as the bouncing checks law. She also directed Sun to pay the complainants P650,000 plus interest corresponding to the amount of six unfunded checks she issued.

The decision came out two years after the suit was filed by Lorna Tolentino and her sister-in-law Marie Fernandez who pursued the case even though Sun claimed the case would drag on for at least 10 years.

The case stemmed from post-dated checks Sun issued to the complainants as payment for pieces of jewelry entrusted to her which Sun would have sold for higher prices.

The six checks, issued in separate occasions from March 12 to May 31 in 1987, all bounced when presented to the Bank of the Philippine Islands where Sun had an account.



Sun

The verdict was one year imprisonment each for the five checks Sun issued and another eight months for a check.

"The accused (Sun) did then and there willfully, unlawfully and feloniously make, draw and issue in favour of Marie Fernandez and against BPI several checks (amounting to P552,000) in payment of her obligations, knowing fully well at the time that she did not have sufficient funds in the drawee bank for payment of the said checks," the court decision read.

PAL sued on dog's death

CEBU CITY: Philippine Airlines was sued before the Cebu trial court for P118,000 in damages for the death of a dog while on flight from Singapore to the Philippines.

Edward Boon, a Cebu City resident, said in a complaint filed in court that he and his wife recently took a flight from Singapore bringing along an imported dog for breeding.

The dog cost the equivalent of P35,000 in Singapore com-

plete with import papers, he said.

According to the complainant, the airlines declared the dog as baggage and was placed at the baggage compartment of the plane.

The dog died in the baggage compartment, he said.

The complainant demanded P35,000 in actual damages, P30,000 in exemplary damages, P10,000 in attorney's fees and P3,000 for litigation expenses.

2 women give birth in buses: Lucena City — Two pregnant women from Batangas gave birth to baby boys in two BLTB passenger buses bound for Pasay City.

The mothers were Helen Nacheva of Barangay Banaybanay, Lipa city, and Teodocia Vargas of Barangay San Pascual, Batangas City, said BLTB area manager Vicente Sombilla.

Sombilla said Nacheva was in a BLTB bus when, at the South Expressway, she gave birth to a baby boy who was given the name Elsi.

Vargas was in a Pasay-bound bus when she gave birth right after leaving Lipa City.

Sombilla said the BLTB Company shouldered the hospital expenses of the two housewives. The company will also deliver Christmas gifts to the two baby boys.

From the provinces

LEGAZPI CITY: Two New People's Army rebels were killed and another was seriously wounded in raids conducted by troops of the 247th PC Company on rebel "safe houses" in neighboring Baao town and Iriga City in Camarines Sur Tuesday morning.

Twelve other rebels were also captured during the raids.

According to reports reaching Camp Bagong Ibalon here, the slain rebels were a certain "Ka Arthur" and Alex Britanico, alias "Ka Rigor," while the wounded was Domingo Palencia, alias "Ka Dencio."

Col. Norberto M. Lina, Recom 5 deputy regional commander for operations and concurrently acting officer-in-charge in the absence of Brig. Gen. Marino Filari, said that "Ka Arthur" was killed in the first "safe house" raided by the Constabulary soldiers led by Sgt. Hermilino de Lima. Raided was a house located in barangay Bagong Bayan, Baao, Camarines Sur.

After a two-minute firefight, 10 suspected rebels were captured. Two of them were identified as Darwin Badong, alias "Ka Dador," and Rex Bulalacao, alias "Ka Rex."

Found at the encounter scene were one caliber .45 pistol and one caliber .38 revolver.

Three hours later, Lina said, a follow-up operation was conducted at the residence of a certain Prescilla Moran in barangay San Juan, Iriga City. The government troops were fired upon by the rebels.

A one-minute exchange of gunshots resulted in the death of Alex Britanico, alias "Ka Rigor."

His companions fled towards nearby barangay Anunciacion.

CEBU CITY: Government forces continued to hold action against renegade soldiers holed up at Mactan Airbase on orders of higher military authorities, the military said.

Gen. Renato de Villa, AFP chief of staff, issued orders to freeze military action against rebels on the island; the Visayas Command (Viscom) information office said.

Brig. Gen. Jose Comendador, former commander of the 2nd Air Division of the Philippine Air Force (PAF), who has been leading the renegade soldiers, had asked for two-day extension. The decision of the military to extend the grace period to the rebels came following a request to De Villa by Ricardo J. Cardinal Vidal, Cebu archbishop.

Mssgr. Achilles Dakay, spokesman for the cardinal, said Vidal talked to De Villa and President Aquino, asking that action be held against Comendador and his men to give more time to negotiations and to continue the relative peace in the island.

Vidal later met Comendador and told him of the President's intention to create a commission to look into the grievances of rebel soldiers.

With Vidal in his talk were Comendador's wife, Ruth, children Pinky and PAF Capt. Dexter Comendador. The negotiations initiated by Vidal were not for the surrender of Comendador and his men but for a peaceful resolution of the crisis, Dakay said.

Meanwhile, three senior Philippines Airlines (PAL) officials asked Comendador to open Mactan International Airport to domestic flights, but were turned down. The three PAL officials — retiring PAF Brig. Gen. Romeo David, senior vice president for logistics; Capt. Jacinto Ortega, vice president for operations; and Pastor Pangilinan, senior vice president for operations — met with Comendador to ask for the removal of roadblocks on the runway and the permission for civilian planes to take off and land on the Mactan International Airport runway, Simoun Canton Jr., PAL spokesman, said.

The three PAL officials who flew to Cebu on a light plane returned to Manila after being turned down by Comendador.

MANILA: More radio stations are facing closure for alleged violation of National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) laws and regulations on emergency broadcast operations during the recent coup attempt.

This developed as acting NTC Commissioner Josefina T. Lichauco directed Deputy Commissioners Florentino L.

Ampil and Aloysius R. Santos to assess the evidence against radio stations for appropriate action.

Ampil told Lichauco that at least three radio stations were monitored disseminating false, inaccurate, and misleading information.

The NTC said the stations were helping rebel soldiers and spreading confusion through false and inaccurate reporting.

LAOAG CITY: A group of city and town mayors and local development planners has formed the Local Government Development Managers of the Philippines.

The officials attended a recent 15-day seminar on development management at UP Los Banos conducted by the Inter-Disciplinary Social Research for Development, its consultant.

The group seeks to enhance the members' skills and expertise in development management. Elected officers are Mayor Virgilio Javier of Claveria, Cagayan, president; Mayor Teddy Sales of Bangui, Ilocos Norte, vice president for Luzon; Mayor Eduardo Napari of Kananga, Leyte, vice president for the Visayas; Mayor Sansaluna Biruar, vice president for Mindanao; Mayor Alberto Moleng of Penablanca, Cagayan, secretary; municipal treasurer Joel Escareal, treasurer; MPDC Chick Atilano, PRO; and Mayor Renee Baula of Impasugong, Bukidnon, liaison officer.

LINGAYEN, Pangasinan — Col. Leandro Mendoza, Pangasinan PC-INP commander, said yesterday checkpoints and barricades he had set up in strategic places have stopped any rebel force from the Ilocos provinces from joining renegade troops in Metro Manila.

Mendoza disputed speculations that rebel soldiers in the Ilocos region will create trouble after the collapse of the coup try last week.

He said his men blocked a contingent of rebel troops last Saturday and sent an 80-man PC force to Quizon City on orders of Maj. Gen. Ramon Montano, PC-INP chief.

EAST LUZON: Typhoon "Walding" has maintained its west-northwest direction and is still a threat to Eastern Luzon, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said yesterday.

The eye of "Walding" was estimated at 770 kilometres east of Catanduanes. It is expected to move west-northwest at 11 kph in the general direction of Eastern Luzon with strongest sustained winds of 205 kph near the centre.

"Walding" is forecast to be 500 km east-northeast of Catanduanes this morning. Public storm signal No. 1 remains hoisted over the Bicol region, Eastern Visayas, and the rest of Eastern Luzon.

These areas will have gusty winds with occasional rains. Coastal waters will be moderate to rough.

MANILA: Labour Secretary Franklin M. Drilon has urged the government to cure the defects of the privatization programme involving 267 government-owned or controlled corporations for the effective redistribution of wealth and the building of a strong middle class.

Drilon said the government should provide protection to workers in corporations being privatized and should broaden the base of ownership of privatized firms to avoid transforming a monopoly by the government into a monopoly of a private nature.

He said the privatization policies must be consistent with the national goals of development, good government, efficiency, democratization, and broadening of the ownership base.

Drilon, who spoke on the issue of privatization before a seminar on economic and social consequences of privatization in Asia, said that Proclamation No. 50 providing for privatization does not have any provision on consultation with the employees of the firms being privatized.

MANILA: Philippine National Railways (PNR) general manager Peter Nicomedes Prado urged the riding public yesterday to use the Metrotrak, the newly introduced train commuter service in Metro Manila.

The Metrotrak service was launched yesterday as the

PNR's first major programme to provide Metro Manilans with a fast, more economical and safer alternative mode of inter-city transport.

It will initially service the Paco-Alabang route.

The project will be undertaken in co-ordination with the Department of Transportation and Communication.

Prado stressed that the PNR and the other DOTC agencies have been closely co-ordinating with each other to solve the transport crisis.

Prado said the Metrotrak runs can accommodate more than 10,000 commuters daily. He is confident that the trains will run on time.

The PNR would charge only half the fare for its train runs if the trip is delayed by 15 minutes, Prado said. If the delay is 30 minutes, the PNR would accommodate the passengers free of charge, he added.

LEGAZPI CITY: Albay Gov. Romy Salalima is appealing to the parents of students of schools and universities here to support the province-wide campaign against drug abuse.

During an organisational meeting last Nov 14 of the Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Council, Salalima said that "the alarming menace caused by drug abuse in the province has come to a point that the government and non-government agencies must join hands in solving the problem."

The multi-sectoral organisation, which is composed of the government, civic and religious groups, will serve as the co-ordinating centre that will monitor all anti-drug abuse activities in the province, Salalima said.

MARAWI CITY: Three suspected cattle rustlers were killed and 16 carabaos were recovered in operations conducted by PC-INP elements in Lanao del Sur.

Lt Col Omar Manabilang, PC-INP commander of Lanao Sur, identified the slain cattle rustling suspects as Alimuddin Mauna, Mamuncutol Mauna, and Barodi Cadir. Recovered from them were one garand, one carbine rifle, one shotgun, and three carabaos.

The slayings took place in barangay Mamaanon, Piagapo, Lanao del Sur.

It was reported that the Marantao town police recovered five carabaos last Dec 5. Eight more stolen carabaos were recovered last Dec 6 by Maguing town policemen.

ABUCAY, Bataan: A "justified" lord in this province and a constabulary soldier were killed the other night by suspected New People's Army "sparrow hit-men," Lt Col Ramsey Ocampo, Bataan provincial commander, reported.

Ocampo said the possible motive of the assassination of Agripino "Boy" Perez, 39, said to be a gambling lord in Bataan, was that he was suspected to have informed the constabulary soldiers of the presence in this town of Bataan NPA chieftain, Cristostomo Ibarra, alias "Ka Siete," who was killed last Sept 5 by PC Capt Shahiron Salem.

Ocampo said that S/Sgt Rolando Samate, who was killed with Perez, was patrolling and stopped by the house where Perez was playing "mahjong" with former governor Celso Tagle, Councilor Ernie Enriquez, and his brother Juanito when the killers arrived and, without a word, shot them at close range.

Perez and Samonte died on the spot from multiple bullet wounds.

Constabulary investigators said that the killers took away Perez's diamond-studded ring valued at about P2 million, his gold watch worth about P30,000, and undetermined amount of cash.

PACO: Agriculture Secretary Carlos G. Dominguez, chairman of the board of the National Tobacco Administration (NTA), has authorized the NTA to enter into an agreement with the urban poor represented by the Canong Zamora Homeowners Association (Cagoza) for the sale of its lot in Paco, Manila.

NTA Administrator Alonzo Q. Ancheta said that the secretary's action is in line with President Aquino's directive to provide housing for the poor.

Many Cagoza members have been long-time occupants of the NTA property.

Clippers outlast Celtics

BOSTON, Jan. 6, (AP) — The Los Angeles Clippers ended a 10-year Boston Garden losing streak, defeating the Celtics 114-105 yesterday when Ron Harper and Benoit Benjamin sparked a 16-2 fourth-quarter rally. The Celtics played most of the game without Larry Bird.

The victory broke the Clippers' overall 11-game losing streak against Boston and was their first in Boston Garden since March 2, 1979.

Bird sprained his left ankle with 42 seconds left in the first quarter and played just 19 minutes, only four in the second half. He scored 12 points.

Boston was led by Kevin McHale with 20 points. The Clippers were paced by Harper's 28 and Danny Manning with a season-high 26.

Cavaliers 119, Bulls 107
Mark Price scored 27 points and Craig Ehlo 23 as the Cleveland Cavaliers overcame a 19-point first-quarter deficit and handed the Washington Bulls a club-record 12th consecutive road loss 119-107.

Jeff Malone led the Bulls with 28 points, but he had only two in the fourth quarter.

The Bulls had lost 11 straight road games in three previous seasons.

76ers 104, Mavericks 79
Johnny Dawkins scored 21 points as the Philadelphia 76ers crushed the Dallas Mavericks 104-79. The 76ers scored the final 12 points of the first period and the first nine of the second quarter.

Pistons 122, Pacers 98
Mark Aguirre scored eight of his 12 first-quarter points during a 20-9 run and the Detroit Pistons posted their fourth straight victory, 122-99 over slumping Indiana. The Pacers suffered their third straight loss.

Aguirre finished with 26 points, while Isiah Thomas, who had 12 of his 24 points in Detroit's first period, needed three stitches to close a cut over his left eye after being elbowed unintentionally by Detroit's Schrempf in the second quarter. Thomas was in the lineup for the third period.

Bulls 127, Magic 116
Michael Jordan scored 43 points to lead the Chicago Bulls to a 127-116 triumph over Orlando, handing the Magic their seventh straight loss and 11th in a row on the road.

The victory was the Bulls 12th straight in the Chicago stadium, tying a club mark set in the 1974-75 season.

Supersonics 140, Heat 110
Dale Ellis scored 12 of his 26 points in the third quarter when Seattle took control and Avery Johnson had a career-high 17 assists. The Heat, who lost their ninth straight game, led 56-54 at halftime but were outscored 23-12 in the first six minutes of the third period. Seattle wrapped it up with a 50-point fourth quarter.

Derrick McKey had 21 points for Seattle. Dana Barros added 22 and Shawn Kemp 19. Glen Rice led Miami with 27.

Trail Blazers 118, Jazz 88
Clyde Drexler scored 25 points and Kevin Duckworth added 22 as Portland beat Utah for the first time in seven tries. Drexler also had nine assists and four blocked shots as Portland opened a 19-point first-half lead, held off a third-quarter Utah rally, then pulled away for good.

Lendl brushes aside Pernfors

Van Rensburg beats Steeb



Lendl: still has a chance to take the title

NEWCASTLE, New South Wales, Jan. 6, (Reuters) — South African Christo van Rensburg could wrap up the Roche Racquet Resort International Tennis Classic tomorrow after scoring his second victory of the round Robin event at Salamander Bay today.

Van Rensburg, the world 27th seed, beat West German Carl-Uwe Steeb 6-3 1-6 6-1 in 90 minutes to be the only player in the four-man tournament with two victories.

Tomorrow Van Rensburg plays Mikael Pernfors from Sweden, who was beaten today by world number one Ivan Lendl.

Lendl, despite a back injury, beat Pernfors 6-4 6-2 in 73 minutes to stand in second position in the tournament.

He still has a chance to retain the classic title he won at the Roche Resort last year.

Lendl has one win, and was beaten by Van Rensburg yesterday, but a straight sets win against Steeb tomorrow would keep him in contention.

Van Rensburg has to win only one set against Pernfors

tomorrow to take the title.

He broke Steeb twice in the first set but dropped one serve himself for a 6-3 first set win then blamed an over-ruling by umpire Warren Costello for losing the second set 1-6.

The call came when Van Rensburg was down 1-3 but it would have given him a break back to make the score 2-3 instead of 1-4.

In the third set Van Rensburg shut Steeb out completely when he raced to a 5-0 lead with two breaks and took the set 6-1 in only 23 minutes.

Despite an injured back from an early morning practice session, Lendl made short work of Pernfors in 73 minutes.

Winning the toss and electing to receive, Lendl broke Pernfors for a 2-1 lead but surprisingly dropped his own serve. He broke again in the seventh and ninth games and took the first set 6-4 in 47 minutes.

Pernfors had more difficulty with the wind in the second set and dropped his first and third serves to be down 1-5. Lendl claimed victory 6-2 in only 26 minutes.

■ In Wellington, New Zealand,

US player Richey Reneberg and Emilio Sanchez of Spain today won through to the final of the \$150,000 New Zealand Open.

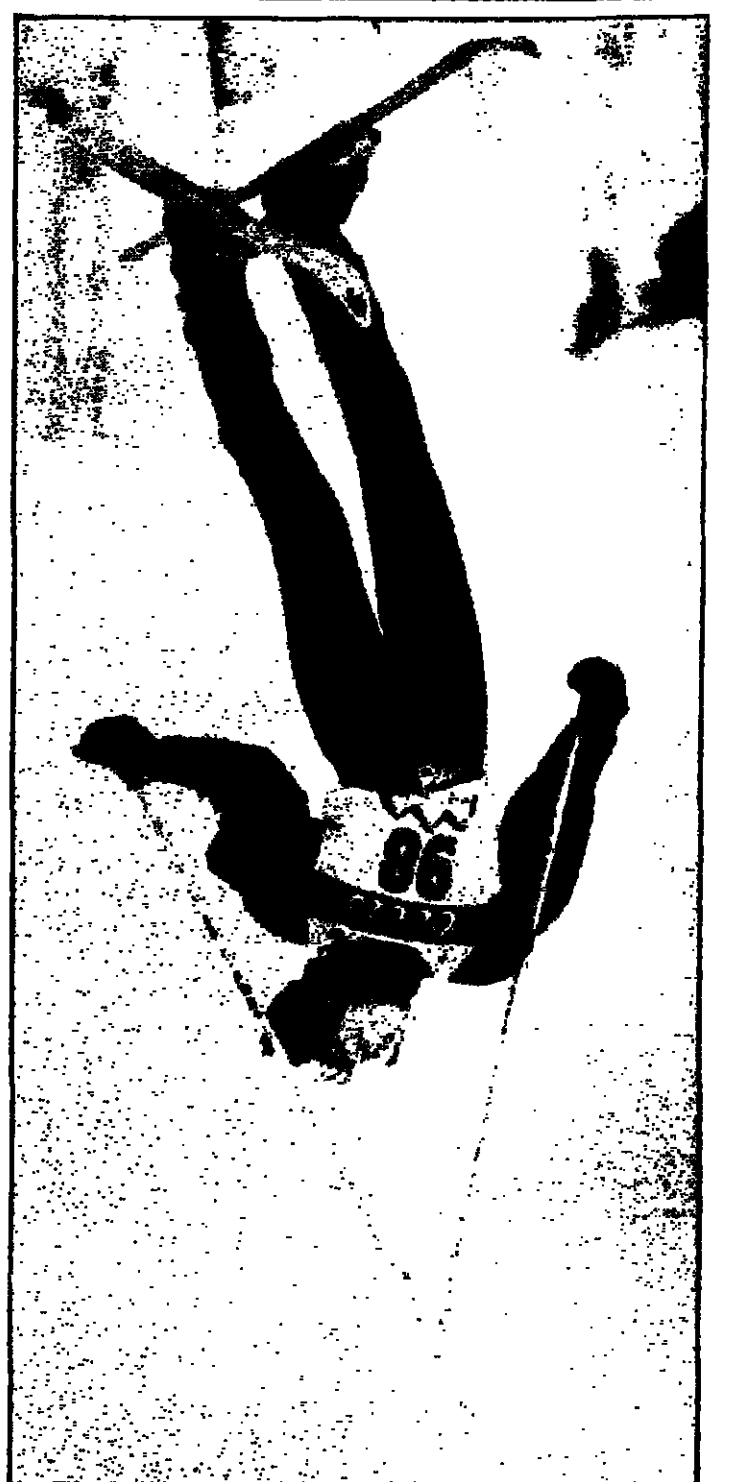
Sanchez, the top seed, has improved with every match and was too good for fiery Italian Paolo Cane in their semi final, winning 7-5, 6-2.

Reneberg overcame a one-set deficit to defeat Czech Karel Novacek 6-7 (4-7) 6-4, 6-0.

■ And in Brisbane, former French Open runner-up Natalia Zvereva of the Soviet Union will tomorrow bid to end her championship drought at the Australian women's hardcourt Tennis Tournament.

Zvereva, who has lost all eight finals she has played on the KRA World Tour, advanced to the final of the \$150,000 tournament with a controlled 6-4, 6-1 semifinal win over Brenda Schultz of the Netherlands.

McQuillan, an 18-year-old double handed who has lifted her world ranking from 79 to 54 by her rousing performances this week, bubbled with confidence after her 6-3, 7-6 (7-3) semifinal win over 10th seed Austrian Judith Wiesner.



Skiing competition

Conny Kissling of Switzerland flips over her poles during her routine that was good enough for a first place finish in the ballet portion of the World Cup freestyle skiing competition at Mont Gabriel yesterday. (Reuters wirephoto)

Soviets get ready for bullfighting

MOSCOW, Jan. 6, (UPI) — Soviet sports authorities, who have introduced golf, baseball and American football to Russia, are gearing up for another diversion — bullfighting.

Well, sort of. Soviet sports authorities are insisting the bulls not be killed, which also rules out the Hemingwayesque prospect of a pre-festival running of the bulls through the streets of Moscow.

But if a Spanish group promises the bulls will not tear up the soccer playing turf of Moscow's Luzhnik sports stadium, the first matadors will flourish their capes in Moscow this summer, a Luzhnik official said.

"It is still too early to talk of exact dates, but we are preliminarily planning for early June," V. A. Mergelidze, director of the Luzhnik Sports Complex, told the daily Komsomolskaya Pravda newspaper.

But unlike baseball in which the Soviet novices have taken the plunge themselves across the country, the pitting of matador against bull will strictly be a viewing event — three outings by a Spanish group.

While giant soccer fields can be converted for football and baseball to easily accommodate the foreign import, the pounding that the bulls give turf is worrying. Luzhnik director Mergelidze said.

"We will agree to the bullfights only if we have an iron-clad guarantee that the playing field at Luzhnik will be preserved," he said. "We cannot sacrifice all the upcoming soccer matches for the sake of three bullfight performances."

"The Spaniards have already taken samples of the turf and say that this problem will be solved. But there is also one more condition by our side: the bulls cannot be killed."

A picture in Komsomolskaya Pravda newspaper anticipating the bullfights showed a matador waving his cape getting out of the way as a wounded bull pounded past.

Shuwaikh and Al Soor stay on top

By Sonny Mariano

SHUWAIKH-Chiquita and Al Soor-Najd Cargo maintained their 1-2 standings after the penultimate round of the LAM-PAK Winter League being played at the Holiday Inn bowling lanes.

Chiquita had an easy time collecting four points by sweeping all their games against Jabriya Club. The Banana Magnates with their title retention campaign going stronger as the final step ladder games draw nearer was led by team captain Rico Pino (560), Lando Caburao (559) and Nafez with 556. Caloy Abesamis took charge of the scoring for the losing Jabriya team with his 3-game score of 592. Nitz Alines, Mayeen Abesamis and Joel Laron also played for the team.

Al Soor-Najd Cargo, the team expected to give Chiquita a run for their money in the finals, brushed aside the third running Surra-Magnolia/Far East 3 games to 1. With this win, the Cargo Forwarders secured the second spot in the standings. Naser Saraj continued to be the top bowler for Najd Cargo after he submitted 560 while Burt Ramos extended his string of brilliant showings by adding 539. The other scorers for Al Soor were Ryan and Amy Abdou with 533 and 511 respectively. For Surra, Kamal Atta with 544 and Emad Al Masri with 511 were the top scorers.

Despite Surra's loss to Al Soor they still managed to hang on to their third position by virtue of their win match against Yarmouk-Tecton (3-1). Bhe Guimay (521) and Kamal Atta (508) were responsible for their all important victory. On Tecton's side, Sani Baker's 597 gave his team the lone point they scored.

Meanwhile, Faiha-NTC B although already out of contention gave

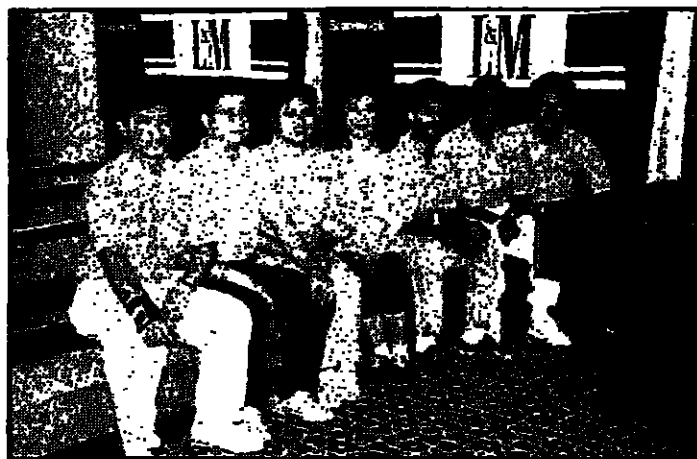
their manager something to be proud of when they scored a double victory. In their first win the Junior Traders edged Murgab-City Int'l/Far East Bank 3 games to 1. Bobot Labicani topscored for Faiha with 533 while Lee Eiderit with 492 was the top scorer for the Money Denies.

After this win, the NTC Junior Traders came back in the afternoon for their match against the Mahboba-Jokers, this time minus their lone lady bowler. But playing with one blind score did not prove to be a liability for NTC as they went on to demolish Mahboba 4-0. Again Bobot Labicani spearheaded NTC's brilliant performance with 560 assisted by Celso Estrada with 524.

And finally, Keifan-BMW put themselves in contention for the fourth and last finish berth when they blanked Salwa Al Raed. The Speedmaster's 4-0 win was engineered by Mansoor Al Shatti (611), Nashed Mohammed (553) and Cora Paras (508). The losing team have Milo Coronado (553) and Wally Flores (551) as their top bowlers.

With only five games left in the elimination round, Shuwaikh-Chiquita and Al Soor-Najd Cargo have the No. 1 and 2 position respectively while Surra-Magnolia/Far East is currently in third position and close on their heels are Salim-NTC, Kuwait City-Araliya and Keifan-BMW.

Going to the fun games also played last week at the Holiday Inn bowling lanes, the winners of the remaining events are as follows: low game — Pete Valiano and Lynne Reyes; blind game — Beda Bora and Baby Palosa; split game — Tony Boy Lacson and Grace Adzuara/Malou Tadena; opposite hand — Bobot Labicani and Cecil Valiano; two hands — Celso Estrada and Gina Nepomuceno.



The Al Soor-Najd Cargo team taking a break from high tension bowling.



Dawn O'Dowd (left) and Elaine Airey, representatives of the tournament sponsors, take a break after distributing souvenirs.

Baker-Finch takes sole lead

CARLSBAD, California, Jan. 6, (AP) — Australian Ian Baker-Finch, a rookie in this winners-only competition, turned a fast start into a 5-under-par 67 and took sole control of the lead yesterday halfway through golf's Tournament of Champions.

Baker-Finch, who had been one of three players tied for the lead after the first round on Thursday, completed two rounds in a total of 133 strokes, 11 under par on the La Costa Country Club course.

"I enjoy being in the lead," said Baker-Finch, whose lone American victory came in the colonial tournament in Fort Worth, Texas, last year. His comfort margin, however, was kept to a minimum by his playing partner, Paul Azinger.

Azinger, called "Zinger" by his fellow pros, did not make a single bogey in his round of 68 and finished the day at 134, just one stroke back of Baker-Finch.

There was a three-stroke gap between Azinger and a trio tied for third at 137. They are David Frost, Scott Hoch and Australian Wayne Grady. All had 68s, and Frost's 4-under-par effort included an eagle-3.

British Open champion Mark Calcavecchia and Greg Norman were next at 138, five strokes off the pace. Calcavecchia shot 68 and Norman, who had shared the first-round lead with Baker-Finch and Azinger, had to birdie the last hole to match par-72.

PGA champion Payne Stewart slipped to a 75 and was at 142. US Open title-holder Curtis Strange shot 73-144, and 1989 Player of the Year Tom Kite had a couple of three-putts in a 72 that left him at 145.

Baker-Finch broke the tie for the top with a birdie-birdie start — "a good rush for me," he said — and played the front nine in 31.

Azinger, refusing to fold, was out in 33 and made up one stroke on the back nine.

Player jailed for slaying referee

HARARE, Zimbabwe, Jan. 6, (AP) — A National League player has received a jail sentence for slaying a referee during a 1988 soccer match and killing a referee, a Harare newspaper reported today.

Second Division player Lucky Zimhara pleaded guilty to a charge of culpable homicide and received a two-year sentence with eight months suspended, the Herald newspaper said.

The newspaper, published by the state-owned mass Media Trust, said referee Showman Tsuro died on May 17, 1988, after Zimhara threw a sharp-edged rock at his head during an on-field dispute.

Entries open for Filcheck tournament



Above and below: Filcheck members in action and later in a meeting



The Filipino Chess Club in Kuwait (Filcheck) invites all Filipino chess enthusiasts to join its First Rated Chess Tournament in 1990 to be held starting on Friday Jan. 26, at the New Kabayan Restaurant.

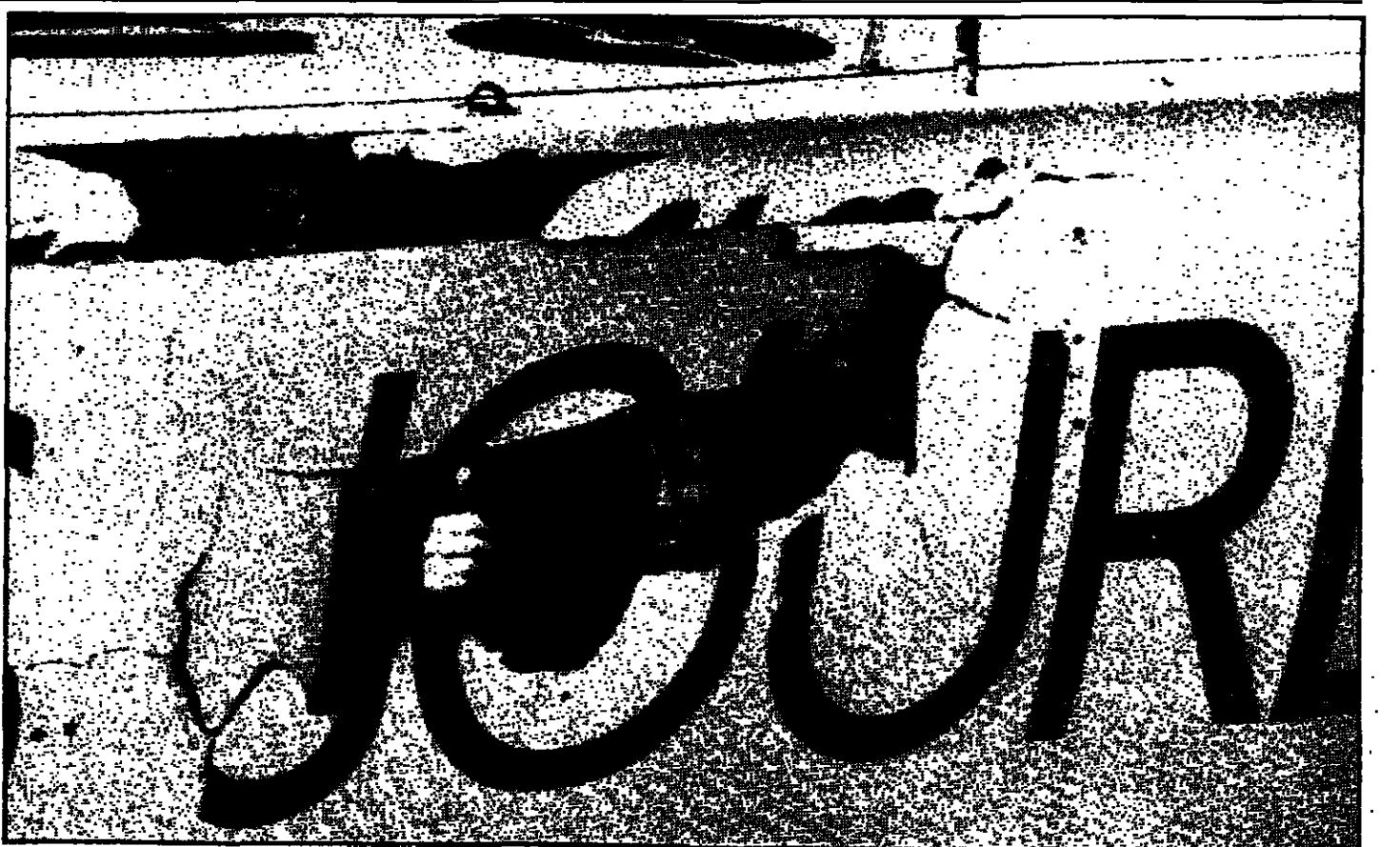
All participants will be divided into two groups, A & B, and shall play a 9-round Swiss system to determine the champion and the runners-up of each group.

The grouping will be based on the Filcheck Rating and previous tournament standing.

The following are the groupings of the present members:

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| Group A | Group B |
| 1. Wahab Alamada | 1. Jigs Acodisen |
| 2. Sammy Aurellano | 2. Alex Alfajaro |
| 3. Chito Barrios | 3. Dionys Bartolome |
| 4. Jess Betguen | 4. Bamra Bucay |
| 5. Rolly Boado | 5. Mauro Burlat |
| 6. Edwin Borigas | 6. Vic Corpuz |
| 7. Danilo Calasin | 7. Roberto Daiz |
| 8. Vicente Corpuz | 8. Bernard delos Reyes |
| 9. Mon Cortado | 9. Melchor Espinosa |
| 10. Neil Dumailo | 10. Rodolfo Laude |
| 11. Teddy Lagmay | 11. Sommi Maca-ayong |
| 12. Ali Macaayan | 12. Nilo Magtangob |
| 13. Ariel Martinez | 13. Fred Marasigan |
| 14. Arnel Matutino | 14. Jun Mercado |
| 15. Ingemar Mendiola | 15. Rolly Mercado |
| 16. Rading Moje | 16. Gil Opiana |
| 17. Thony Monreal | 17. Adrian Perez |
| 18. Rene Mostrales | 18. Stanley Sawit |
| 19. Fred Nieva | 19. Rey Sunico |
| 20. Nanding Policarpio | 20. Jhun Tiamiao |
| 21. Edward Racaza | 21. Rey Veloso |
| 22. Wally Soriano | |

Registration is now open for Filcheck members and non-members. Entry forms are available at the Filcheck Headquarters at the New Kabayan Restaurant, Tel. 2402405. Deadline for submission of entries is Friday, January 19, 1990.



Whale strikes yacht

French crew member Yves Le Carnec looks through the gaping hole that was punched in the side of their yacht Charles Jourdan during the Tasmania leg of the Whitbread Round The World Yacht Race yesterday. (Reuters wirephoto)

SPORTS

Former captains praise SACU

LONDON, Jan 6, (Reuters): Four former England cricket captains today backed the South African Cricket Union, organisers of a rebel tour of English players, for its efforts to fight apartheid through sport.

In a letter to the Times newspaper published today, the four — Peter May, Mike Smith, John Edrich and Bob Wyatt — also urged players taking part in the rebel tour to help coach young players in South Africa "to promote the long-term interests of young black enthusiasts."

"We wish to place on record our admiration and appreciation for the work being carried out by the South African Cricket Union (SACU) to promote the interests of cricket to all races in South Africa," the letter said.

It was also signed by former fast bowler Fred Trueman and seven other former players.

SACU has poured millions of rand (dollars) into developing cricket in black townships and feels the enthusiasm generated by foreign tours will boost multiracial cricket.

But critics say SACU's efforts are tokenism and does little to change South African cricket's image as a white sport.

Anti-apartheid activists have warned that the rebel players, led by former England captain Mike Gatting, could face serious disturbances when the tour begins later this month.

In New Delhi, Mohammed Azharuddin became India's third cricket captain in the past four months when he was named yesterday to lead the side on the three-Test tour of New Zealand starting later this month.

He takes over from opener Krishnamachari Srikkanth, who led India in the recent four-Test series in Pakistan and his decision not to play domestic cricket since his return as reasons for replacing him.

Srikkanth took over the captaincy in October from Dilip Vengsarkar, who led India on last year's tour of West Indies.

Azharuddin, 27 next month, has been a regular member of the Indian side since the 1983-4 season when he made a spectacular debut in the home series against England, scoring centuries in his first three Tests.

Richards injured

BRIDGETOWN, Jan 6, (Reuters): West Indies cricket captain Viv Richards fractured a finger in the opening match of the domestic season and doctors advised him not to play for three weeks.

Christie triumphs

SYDNEY, Australia, Jan 6, (AP): Linford Christie of Britain swept to victory today in the 100-metre event at an international track and field meet at the Sydney Athletic Field.

Northampton surprise Coventry

Swansea hold Liverpool

LONDON, Jan 6, (Reuters): Coventry City, English Football Association (FA) Cup winners in 1987, fell to lowly opposition at the first hurdle for the second year in a row when they lost 1-0 at Third Division Northampton today.

Fellow First Division sides Wimbledon, the Cup winners in 1988, and Luton, thrashed 4-1 at Brighton, also crashed out in the third round as first and second division clubs joined the survivors from the first two rounds.

Wimbledon, who beat West Bromwich Albion in the third round two years ago on their way to winning the trophy, lost 2-0 to the same Second Division rivals.

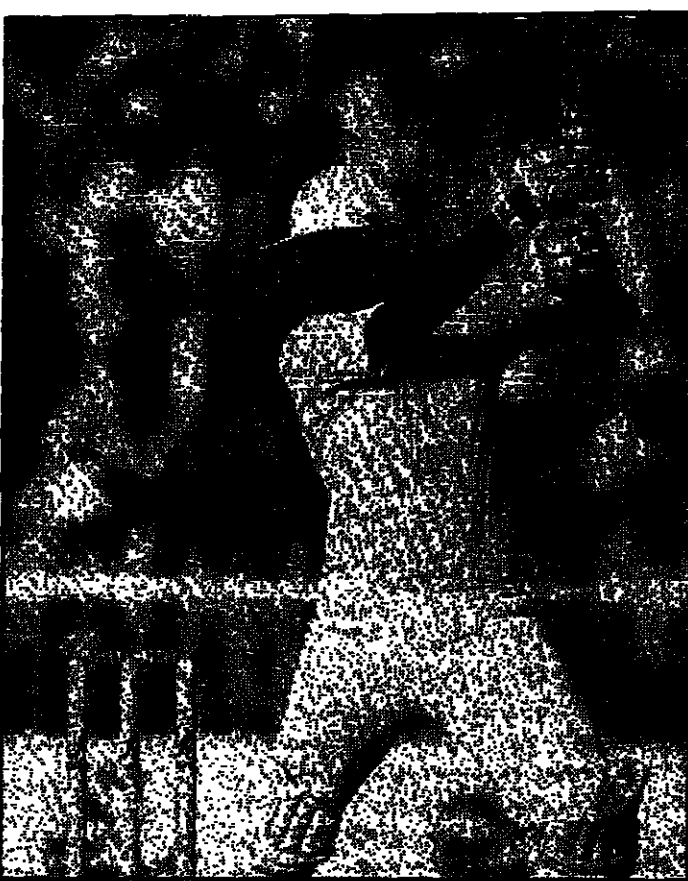
League leaders Liverpool failed to breach Third Division Swansea's defence and face a replay with the Third Division side at Anfield on Wednesday after a 0-0 draw.

League champions Arsenal were among only four First Division sides to win as Chelsea and Norwich fought back to scrape draws against lowly opposition and Aston Villa were held 2-2 in an exciting match at Blackburn Rovers.

Southampton spoiled Tottenham Hotspur manager Terry Venables' 47th birthday by beating fellow First Division Spurs

Pakistan rally against Queensland

Miandad slams 77



Miandad: rescued Pakistan

BRISBANE, Australia, Jan 6, (Reuters): A resilient 77 from vice-captain Javed Miandad rescued Pakistan from another batting disaster on the first day of their four-day cricket match against Queensland today.

After Pakistan had been reduced to 57 for three, Miandad shared in stands of 52 with Saeed Anwar and 82 with Ejaz Ahmed to help the visitors reach 254 for eight by the close.

Pakistan's early problems were caused by paceman Mick Polzin who was brought into the Queensland side only shortly before the start because of an injury to former Test bowler Craig McDermott.

He dismissed openers Aamir Malik and Shoaib Mohammad in an opening spell of two for 14 and then returned to have Saeed caught by Tim Healy behind the stumps for 28.

Miandad and Ejaz, with some aggressive batting which saw 62 runs added in the final hour before tea, took Pakistan to a respectable 191 for four but both then fell to the spin of Steve Storey immediately after the interval.

He had Miandad smartly stumped by Healy and then Ejaz was caught close in by Chris Smart for 44.

Captain Imran Khan and Salim Yousuf added 48 for the seventh wicket but then Imran became Healy's fifth victim of the innings when he edged a ball from Paul Carey who also dismissed Abdul Qadir before he had scored.

Salim was unbeaten on 34 at the close with Waqar Yousuf still to score.

Scoreboard

PAKISTAN first innings
Aamir Malik c Healy b Polzin..... 5
Shoaib Mohammad c Foley..... 13
b Polzin
Mansoor Akhtar c Healy..... 14
b Rackemann
Javed Miandad st Healy b Storey..... 77
Saeed Anwar c Healy b Polzin..... 28
Ejaz Ahmed c Smart b Storey..... 44
Imran Khan c Healy b Carey..... 20
Salim Yousuf not out..... 34
Abdul Qadir b Carey..... 0
Waqar Yousuf not out..... 0
Extras (b-11 nb-8)..... 19
Total (for eight wickets)..... 254
Fall of wickets: 1-20-26 3-57 4-109 5-191 6-192 7-246 8-250.
To bat: Aaqib Javed.
Bowling (to date): Polzin 21-5-56-3, Carey 16-5-43-2, Rackemann 18-3-45-1 (4nb), Storey 17-6-45-2 (3nb), Cantrell 12-1-40-0, Foley 8-1-14-0 (1nb).
Queensland: Greg Ritchie (captain), Peter Cantrell, Geoff Foley, Stuart Law, Steve Storey, Peter Clifford, Chris Smart, Ian Healy, Carl Rackemann, Mick Polzin, Paul Carey.

Sanders sets meet record

PERTH, Australia, Jan 6, (AP): Summer Sanders of the United States swam the fastest women's 200-metre individual medley in Australia at an international meet today.

The 22-year-old athlete clocked the course in two minutes, 16.64 seconds.

Jamie Wagstaff of the United States won the 100-metre backstroke in one minute, 4.05 seconds, while Lorenza Vitarani of Italy was second.

Sri Lanka first innings
A. Samarasekera c Robertson b Gilbert..... 3
G. Wickremasinghe hit wkt B. Gilbert..... 24
H. Tilakaratne not out..... 37
S. Jayasuriya c Shippard b Campbell..... 7
Extras (b-2 b-5 nb-6)..... 13
Total (for three wickets)..... 86
Fall of wickets: 1-5, 2-61, 3-63.
To bat: Aravinda de Silva (captain), Chaminda Ramanayake, Graeme Labrooy, Ranjith Madurasinghe, Nalintha Ramanayake, Ruwan Kalpage.
Bowling (to date): Gilbert 9-2-27-2, Cooley 5-1-21-0 (6nb), Campbell 8-1-25-1, Robertson 5-1-6-0.

Boon dazzles with unbeaten ton

DEVONPORT, Australia, Jan 6, (Reuters): Tasmania's Test batsman David Boon dazzled the crowd and demoralised the Sri Lankans with a magnificent unbeaten 133 on the opening day of their three-day cricket match at Devonport Oval today.

His innings included 101 runs between lunch and tea when captain Dirk Wellham declared with Tasmania on 210 for one.

Sri Lanka were 86 for three in reply at the close.

It was only the second time a Tasmanian had made a century in a session in a first class game — the other was 68 years ago when Colin Newton scored 107 against Victoria before lunch.

Boon's 169-ball effort included 15 fours and one six as he pummeled the ball to all parts of the ground.

Sri Lanka were missing six regular Test players through injury and illness and Boon brutalised the makeshift attack. Acting captain Aravinda de Silva used eight bowlers in an attempt to halt the runs but without success.

The nuggetty Tasmanian star-

ted sedately making only 32 in 75 minutes before lunch in partnership with opener Greg Shippard who finished the innings on 57 not out.

But immediately after the break there were signs that Boon was ready to attack. A couple of boundaries and strong driving and then three fours within 10 balls saw his score start to accelerate.

His 50 came up in 104 minutes and just 60 minutes later he recorded his 33rd first class century.

He celebrated by immediately hammering Ranjith Madurasinghe through the covers for four and then repeated the shot only this time clouting him over the fence in the same position for six.

Paceman Dave Gilbert removed openers Athula Samarasekera and Gamini Wickremasinghe when Sri Lanka batted and Greg Campbell took the wicket of Sanath Jayasuriya.

Scoreboard
TASMANIA first Innings
R. Bennett c Asoka de Silva b Ramanayake..... 9

G. Shippard not out..... 57
D. Boon not out..... 133
Extras (NB-7 W-4)..... 11
Total (for one wicket, declared)..... 210
Fall of wicket: 1-18.

Did not bat: Dirk Wellham (captain), Jamie Cox, Rodney Tucker, Gavin Robertson, Richard Soule, Greg Campbell, Dave Gilbert, Troy Cooley.

Bowling: Labrooy 9-1-32-0 (2W), Ramanayake 12-2-27-0 (1W), Ramanayake 11-2-35-1 (6nb, 1W), Kalpage 1-0-6-0, Asoka de Silva 13-2-45-0 (1nb), Madurasinghe 7-0-41-0, Jayasuriya 4-1-13-0, Aravinda de Silva 2-1-7-0.

Sri Lanka first Innings
A. Samarasekera c Robertson b Gilbert..... 3
G. Wickremasinghe hit wkt B. Gilbert..... 24
H. Tilakaratne not out..... 37
S. Jayasuriya c Shippard b Campbell..... 7
Extras (b-2 b-5 nb-6)..... 13
Total (for three wickets)..... 86
Fall of wickets: 1-5, 2-61, 3-63.
To bat: Aravinda de Silva (captain), Chaminda Ramanayake, Graeme Labrooy, Ranjith Madurasinghe, Nalintha Ramanayake, Ruwan Kalpage.

Bowling (to date): Gilbert 9-2-27-2, Cooley 5-1-21-0 (6nb), Campbell 8-1-25-1, Robertson 5-1-6-0.

ME Rally season to start in Qatar

THE 1990 Fisa Middle East Rally Championship gets under way in February with the 1990 Nasser Bin Khalid Qatar International Rally. The two-day 800 km event will start yet another season of exciting saloon car rallying in the Middle East with entries from throughout the region ready to pitch battle through the tough desert stages of the Southern Gulf.

Top of the bill in the first major event of the 1990's will be the reigning Middle East champion Mohammed Bin Sulayem, who will tackle the event in his Winston Toyota Celica GT-4, with popular Irish co-driver Ronan Morgan.

The total distance of the event is expected to be 800

kilometres, with approximately 500 kms of road section and 300 kms of 26 special stages. The rally will start from Doha Corniche at 1 pm on Thursday Feb 15 1990, with the first car arriving to part for the event at around 7 pm. On the second and final day of the event, the restart is at 8:00 am. The first will arrive at the finish at approximately 6 pm.

Expected to be entered for the first time into a Middle East championship rally is a Group A Mitsubishi Galant. Rallyart Middle East are still conducting driver tests in Dubai, and an announcement a crew is expected within a week. As well as the Group A vehicle, Mitsubishi will also enter a Group N Galant.



Amiri audience

HH the Amir received yesterday morning head of the higher organising committee for the Peace and Friendship games, Minister of Social Affairs and Labour Sheikh Nasser Mohammed and deputy head of the championship committee Sheikh Fahad Al Ahmed as well as participant committee members.

During their audience, members of the committee briefed HH about the achievements of the championship.

The Amir then praised efforts made by the members in making the championship a success.

Schneider wins slalom

PIANCAVALLO, Italy, Jan 6, (AP): Swiss ace Vreni Schneider, making a triumphant comeback following a one-month absence due to a knee injury, won a women's World Cup slalom today in this northern Italian resort.

Schneider, the defending World Cup champion, finished ahead of the Austrian trio of Monika Maierhofer, Claudia Strobl and Anita Wachter.

The 25-year-old Swiss, who underwent surgery last month to remove cartilage from her injured left knee, showed that her form and determination was unaffected by the long absence as she clocked a winning aggregate time of one minute, 18.86 seconds.

Maierhofer finished 1.38 seconds behind the Swiss skier, a huge gap in a slalom race.

The biggest slalom lead of three seconds belongs to France's Florence Steurer and dates back to 1968.

Schneider, who had injured her knee during a downhill training in Steamboat Springs last Dec 6 and had been sidelined since then, was the fastest in the first heat, in 38.42 seconds, and had the fourth best time in the second run, in 40.44.

Schneider, who had won a previous World Cup slalom in Park City, nearly missed a gate in the bottom part of the second run as she arrived too fast at a difficult gate.

"I had to brake so as not to miss the gate and I was afraid my first-heat advantage had completely melted. Instead I still held a big margin. I can hardly believe it, on my first race after the injury," Schneider said with a broad smile.

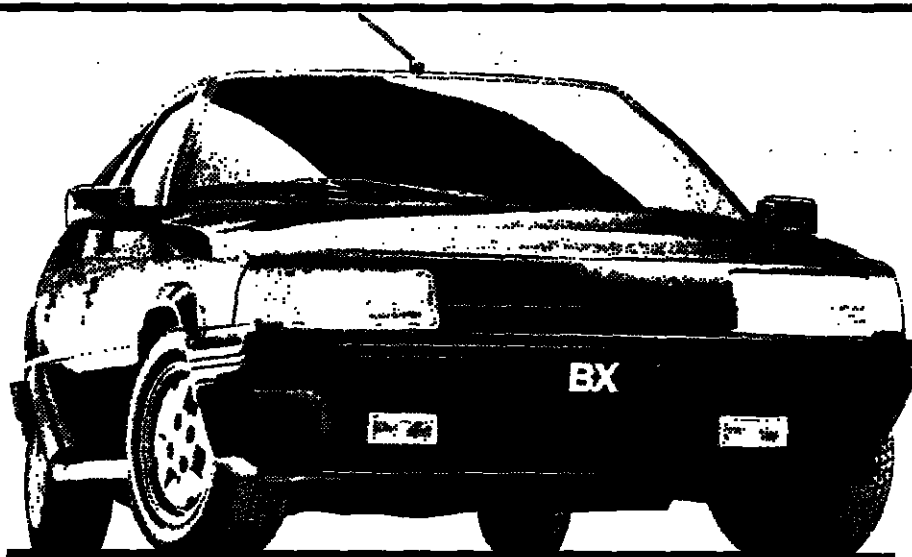
Morning Star triumph easily

IN a one-sided fixture of KCL at the N.C. ground on Friday morning, Gold Star were beaten by Morning Star by 80 runs. Batting first, Morning Star piled up 201 for eight in allotted 25 overs.

Shaher led the batting honours with 53 runs. He was ably supported by Aftab (48) and Suhail Khan (25). Nadeem bowled well for Gold Star and claimed five wickets.

Shahid (25), Saleem (24), and Sohail (23) tried to make a match of it but Morning Star's skipper Anjum Raza had lot of temptations for all the batsmen with his gentle leg-spin. He deceived half of the team and ran through middle and lower order taking five wickets.

Gold Star were all-out for only 121 runs to leave Morning Star easy winners.

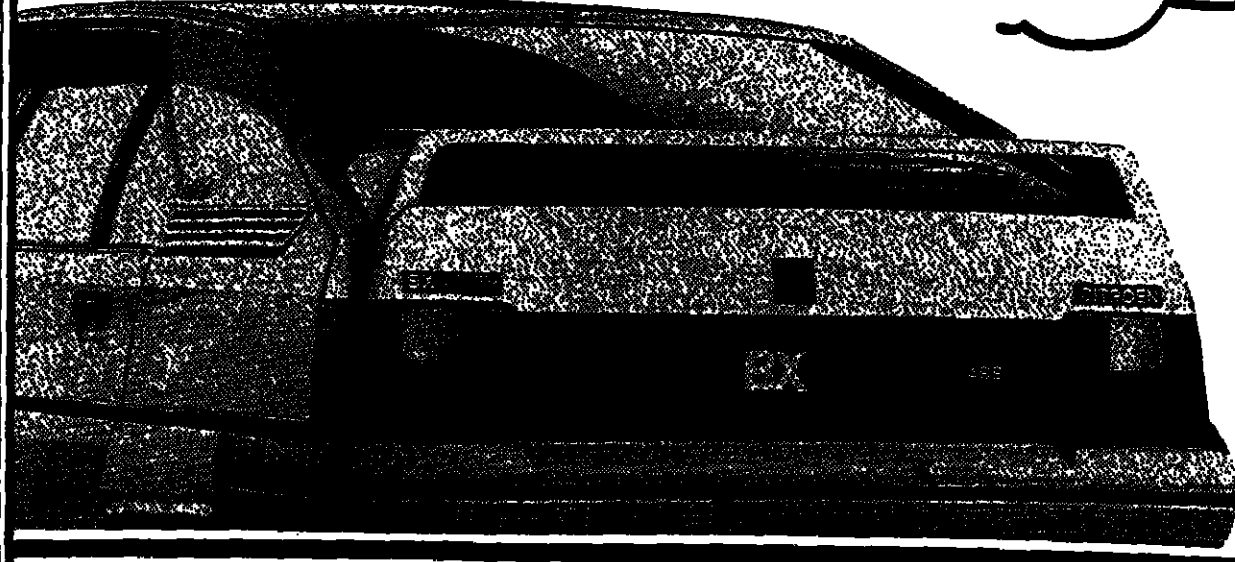


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